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SGA gears up for '06 elections

Smoking recommendation comes to vote at long last

By Scott Greene
Staff Writer

The Student Government Association (SGA) announced its candidates for the positions of SGA President and Student co-Chair of the Community Council (SCCOCC) during its meeting on Sunday, April 9 in the Robert A. Jones '59 House conference room, a list that does not include current SGA President Eli Berman '07.5. The SGA also passed a recommendation regarding the College's recent smoking issue, and engaged members of the SGA's Finance Committee in a discussion on improving the transparency of the fund-allocation process.

After allowing the prospective candidates to speak before the SGA and highlight their campaign platforms, members of the senate excused them from the room to approve their candidacies. The SGA approved both candidates for SGA President, Alex Stanton '07 and Alina Levina '09. In addition, the Senate approved all three candidates for SCCOCC, Annie Williams '07, Ryan Tauriainen '08 and Mike Tierney '09. The election will take place from April 20-21.

Berman said that though he would not run for re-election, he was grateful for the opportunity to lead the SGA during what he characterized as a great year.

See *The Campus's* in-depth coverage of the upcoming SGA Presidential and SCCOCC elections on pages 4 and 5.

"I spoke with many student leaders, doing many important things, and I realized that we really do have the power to make effectual change," he explained. "Grades? Social life? Who knows? But hopefully those things may rise more than a little bit next year with a little more time on my hands."

In addition to hearing from and approving each candidate, the SGA also passed its recommendation to the Community Council with regards to possible smoking restrictions on campus.

The SGA recommended that "smoking be kept a respectable dis-

See SGA, page 4

Pillars of knowledge

Marie Horbar

Leading a group of admitted students past Mead Chapel, an informative tour guide provided prospective students and their families a glimpse of college life during the first of two Campus Preview Days on Monday.

Faculty debates EAC recs

By Thomas C. Drescher
Managing Editor

An assortment of faculty members met on Tuesday afternoon in Kenyon Lounge to discuss three Educational Affairs Committee (EAC) recommendations designed to combat grade inflation at the College. The recommendations were crafted by the EAC's Ad Hoc Committee on Grading and will require an affirmative vote by the faculty to pass, pending further deliberation.

The first recommendation calls for the elimination of the "A+" grade. This adjustment in grading would not alter GPA calculations — both "A+" and "A" are valued at 4.0 — and would hypothetically bring about a general shift in the grading scale. In theory, this would entail an increase in the number of lower grades submitted, and since "A" would be the highest possible grade, "A-" the second highest, and so on, students would come to appreciate a "B" as they now appreciate a "B+."

Assistant Professor of Physics Noah Graham said he doubted the efficacy of such a minor alteration, and observed that it seems at odds with other initiatives, considering that the EAC acknowledges an aggre-

See Grading, page 3

Orange Grove celebrates Angels with gospel

Albert Bitici

A soloist from the Orange Grove Gospel Choir performs a rousing gospel hymn on Saturday.

By Polly Johnson
News Editor

On Saturday, April 8, Mead Chapel buzzed with a blend of sadness, remembrance and joy as the Orange Grove Gospel Choir took the stage to both celebrate the conclusion of Religious Awareness Week as well as honor the memories of the Four Angels, Anisa Gamble, Tiffany Holmes, Iniko Johnson and Maika Prewitt, four first-year female students who died in a tragic car accident in 2000. Following their deaths, their parents established The Angels Award, which has been given annually to a Middlebury College sophomore woman of color who embodies the spirit of the four women.

This performance, under the direction of Mr. Marion West, marked the third occasion the Choir has performed at the College, the first time being in April of 2000 when they provided comfort for College, community and family members shocked and devastated by the loss.

Originally from Durham, N.C., the choir performs in and around the southeastern United States and has made two trips to England, where they performed in the famous Durham Cathedral.

Associate Dean of the College Marichal Gentry became involved with the choir when he worked at Duke University Medical Center for the Pediatric Bone Marrow Transplant Program and a colleague told him about Orange Grove. He was introduced to West who "welcomed him with open arms," Gentry said. He has been affiliated with the choir since 1994.

The choir was first scheduled to perform at Middlebury in April of 2000, coincidentally following the death of the Angels. After wavering over whether or not they should still perform, Gentry said, "I called the choir director to inform him of the tragedy that the College had experienced. The choir altered a few of its song selections and chose songs that would provide comfort to the Middlebury College community during this time of grief. The choir was so well received that it was invited to return in 2001. By this time, the Angels Award had been established, so it was fitting that the choir return again to honor the Angels."

In attendance at Saturday's performance was Mr. Lennox Holmes, father of Angel Tif-

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MIDDBRIEFS

BY KATHRYN FLAGG AND LISIE MEHLMAN

CSO sponsors resume collection for nonprofit sector employers

Career Services (CSO) will be conducting its first-ever Nonprofit Sector Resume Collection on April 19. This last collection will be the first to focus primarily on jobs in the nonprofit sector, although some jobs in the for-profit sector will also be included. There are currently 23 nonprofit jobs posted on CSO's Web site, however this figure might increase over the course of a week. The CSO press release explained that "Nonprofit job openings are hard to organize into resume collections, as nonprofit organizations generally hire only as-needed." The creation of this new resume collection demonstrates CSO's determination to provide support for those students interests in careers in the nonprofit industry. More information is available on Middlebury's Career Services Office website.

Application numbers at the last two CSO resume collections have been markedly lower than previous years.

VH1 'Best Week Ever' panelists to perform

Commentators and panelists from cable channel VH1's "Best Week Ever" show are slated to perform tomorrow at Middlebury College. Mike Britt, Aziz Ansari, Pete Holmes and Jessica St. Clair '98 will comment on this week's share of pop culture stories, mirroring the content of VH1's show. The show airs weekly and features a large cast of comedians who analyze the past week's developments in pop culture, entertainment and celebrity gossip. Following the format of other popular VH1 specials such as "I Love the 80s," combining comic wit and multimedia footage.

"Best Week Ever" weekly programming also includes segments such as "The Sizzler," a discussion of celebrity gossip, "The Express Lane," a fast-paced review of pop culture news and "In Case You Missed It," the week's best moments in television.

Tomorrow's performance will take place in Pepin Gym at 8 p.m. Doors open at 7 p.m. Tickets are available for $5 for Middlebury College Activity Board card holders, $10 for students, faculty and staff and $20 for the general public.

Symposium on global feminism underway

"Global Feminism," a symposium organized and run by three Middlebury student organizations, kicked off yesterday with an afternoon lecture and a "healing fire ceremony" to recognize women who have suffered at the hands of sexual violence. Last night's events culminated in a candlelight vigil held outside of Mead Chapel.

The symposium, undertaken by coordinators from Middlebury College Women of Color, Feminist Action at Middlebury (FAM) and the College's chapter of Amnesty International, strives to present women's rights as human rights. The symposium also hopes to promote collaboration on campuses and in communities around the world, raising awareness and tackling issues that affect women.

The symposium will run through Sunday and include a selection of lectures, discussions, a film and slam poetry, as well as a one-woman show. A complete calendar of events is available on the Middlebury College web site, though highlights include Staceyann Chin's slam poetry event tonight at 7 p.m. and Saturday evening's 7:30 p.m. cultural show. All events are free and open to the public.

CORRECTIONS

A caption on page 6 of the April 6 Local News section below the article on maple syrup did not correspond with the picture. The caption should read: Amy Wheeler in Westfield, Vt., serves sugar on snow.

In a photo caption on page 1 of the News section, Dean of the College Tim Spears was misattributed as Dean of Students.

The Middlebury Campus regrets these errors.

PALANA selects new residents

By Kathryn Flagg
News Editor

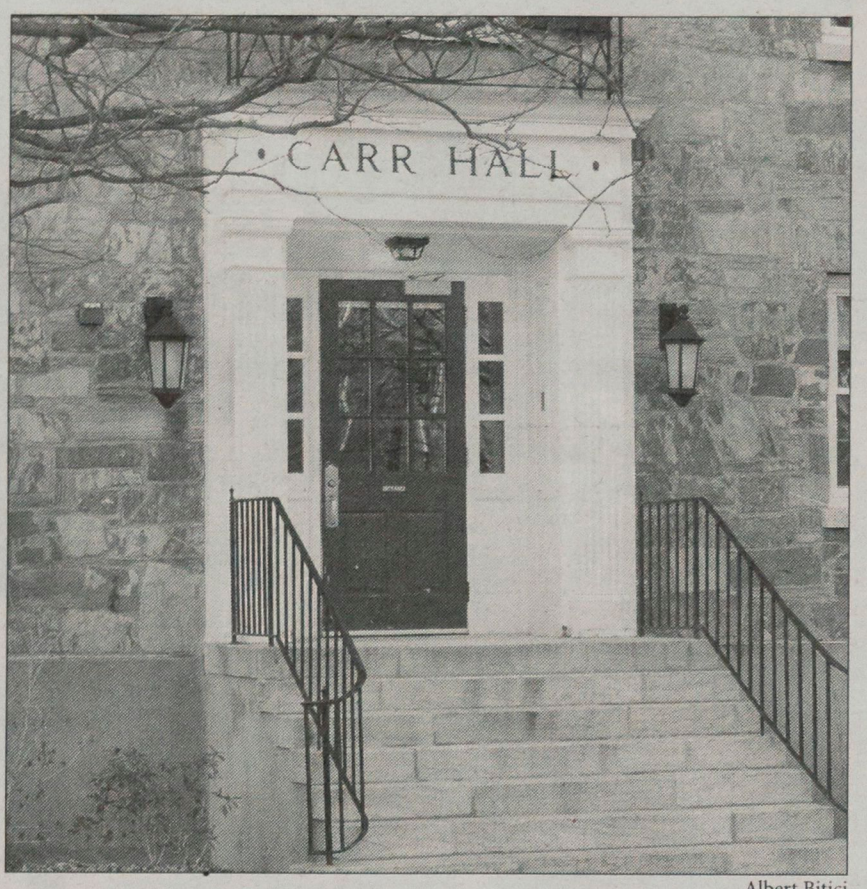
Dispelling rumors of an unfair selection process for PALANA (Pan-African, Latino, Asian, Native American) residents, assistant in academic administration Jennifer Herrera said on Tuesday that racial bias did not play a role in the selection of PALANA residents for the 2006-2007 academic year. Herrera's confirmation, which followed an e-mail sent last week to current PALANA residents, was sought in response to voiced concerns from students that the selection process this year denied a wide breadth of students the opportunity to live in PALANA.

According to Herrera and senior advisor in institutional diversity Leroy Nesbitt, this year's selection process for the house did not differ in any monumental ways from previous years. The Office of Institutional Diversity (OID) solicited nominations from faculty and staff who work directly with diverse groups of students. Applications were also sent to students who approached administrative officials previously in the year indicating interest in the house, and Herrera mentioned that the office targeted students who had been involved in PALANA events throughout the year or who had been recommended "by word of mouth."

"Basically what PALANA has is a network of people that have worked with us — faculty, staff and students — and we tried to alert all of those people to give us names of potential students who they think would be good to live in our house," said Nesbitt. Nesbit stressed that PALANA was looking for students who were interested in living in a multicultural environment, demonstrated an academic interest in diversity, and students who desired involvement in PALANA programming events.

Nine students were ultimately chosen by a committee of four reviewers, and as Herrera stressed in an e-mail sent last week to current PALANA residents, these applicants were chosen "without regard to race or ethnicity."

As an academic interest house, Herrera and Nesbitt noted that, traditionally, applicants have not been solicited by all-student e-mails. While an open house for interested students was held and publicized last year, Herrera said that the previous low turnout had not justified the expense of paying for advertising for the event.



Albert Bitici

The College's intercultural academic interest house is currently located in Carr Hall.

Students and current residents have expressed mixed feelings for this process.

"As a resident of PALANA I understand OID's attempt to recruit the most committed and academically qualified students to apply to live in the house," said current resident Lily Hamburger '07.5. "However, I feel strongly that all Middlebury students be informed of the opportunity to apply to live here."

Ultimately, however, despite the now-quelled rumors, most current PALANA residents have voiced faith in the process.

"PALANA is an academic interest house," said Brian Pacheco '07. "The Spanish house does not send out e-mails to all students, only to Spanish majors and those who have taken Spanish classes. PALANA is trying to do something similar, but with nothing clearly marked as "diversity" the selection process becomes harder."

He continued, "Some qualified students may have been overlooked this year, and that is a shame, but it was never a malicious intention."

On the whole, administrators and students have expressed optimism for PALANA's upcoming residential experience and programming plans. Nesbitt, for one, noted that he hopes to see PALANA work more closely with faculty in the future, foster continued Deliberative Dialogues and continue to undertake scholarship and promote the academic exploration of diversity. He noted, of course, that the residents who ultimately live in Carr Hall, where PALANA is housed, will greatly influence the year's plans.

"Each year the house is very much flavored by the students who live in it," he said.

Despite widespread satisfaction from current and past residents, in answering inquiries from *The Middlebury Campus*, these residents did express concerns that PALANA remains widely perceived as the "minority house."

"I am not going to give the racial breakdown of the house," said Brian Pacheco '07, "as the goal of PALANA is not to fill a quota. PALANA is not the "minority" house, rather a house filled with nine student who have a strong and overwhelming commitment to diversity."

Belle of the Ball

Marie Horbar

Returning to Middlebury to share her Watson Fellowship experiences with current students, Crystal Belle '04 presented lessons learned during her time abroad and performed her famous slam poetry in the Gamut Room.

Block draw moves to BannerWeb

Process goes online, student concerns still present

By Katie Hylas
Staff Writer

In an attempt to allay some room draw stress, the block draw process has been restructured and transferred online to BannerWeb. The process was altered in response to student vocalization that the system was overly complicated and confusing, but since only the actual registration process is changed this year, many student objections remain unattended.

Previously during block draw, one representative for a potential block had to calculate commons points, manually complete forms and hand-deliver them to his or her respective commons office. Assistant Dean of the College Kelly Bevere said of the paper approach to block draw, "It was a hassle and created more anxiety about the process."

Block draw will now be coordinated via computer. One representative will still log into his or her BannerWeb account and list the identification numbers of the people he or she wants to live with along with a list in order of preference of blocks they would like to live in. The primary differenace is that the system will use the ID numbers to calculate commons points and assign blocks according to preferences listed by the group representative.

Bevere stressed that block draw is not first-come, first-serve like registration is. Group representatives will be able to apply for blocks at their leisure anytime from April 12 at 8:30 a.m. to April 14 at 8:30 a.m.

Upperclassmen have voiced concerns that the updated block draw process, which combines the previously distinct large and small block draws, decreases flexibility. Because the BannerWeb process only allows students to devise increasingly smaller blocks rather than rearranged block applications, the process diminishes students' opportunities to devise contingency plans if original plans fall through.

However, students find it difficult to discuss block draw without discussing the commons system. Mohammed Almzayyen '09 said, "I think that the system is the only fair way to distribute the rooms. However, some commons have much better facilities or more single rooms than others." Robert Gosney '09 agrees, "Block draw is fine, but the commons system is not fair in terms of number of rooms per grade."

Block draw is fine, but the commons system is not fair in terms of number of rooms per grade.

— Robert Gosney '09

The block draw differential between commons is also disturbing to students. Ross Commons and Wonnacott Commons have 19 and 22 block draws available to all classes respectively, while Cook Commons only has seven. The other major student concern is the fact that the commons into which students are placed cannot necessarily house them in following years. Many students may get pushed into summer draw and become separated from their commons.

It also appears that information is scarce among students, although a number of information sessions were held — especially first-years. When asked about his feelings toward BannerWeb registration for block draw, one first-year asked, "Wait! Do you know when the block draw is?" and, "Wait! Where is that stuff online?"

Eric DePriester '09 claimed, "Most of my information comes from second hand sources." Confusion is commonly associated with block draw — BannerWeb registration is intended to simplify the process.

Dana Isaac '08 complained that the system is "unnecessarily complicated and difficult." She also commented on scarce information, saying, "Last year our JCs weren't very clear with us." Information about room draw is online at http://www.middlebury.edu/campuslife/commons/housing/.

CRAs can also serve as valuable resources for information. Bevere expressed hope that some of the anxiety of room draw would be alleviated by the computerized block draw process. The online registration cannot entirely eliminate the confusion surrounding block draw but hopefully the new web-based interface will curb some of the student complaints.

Grading policies bandied about

Continued from page 1

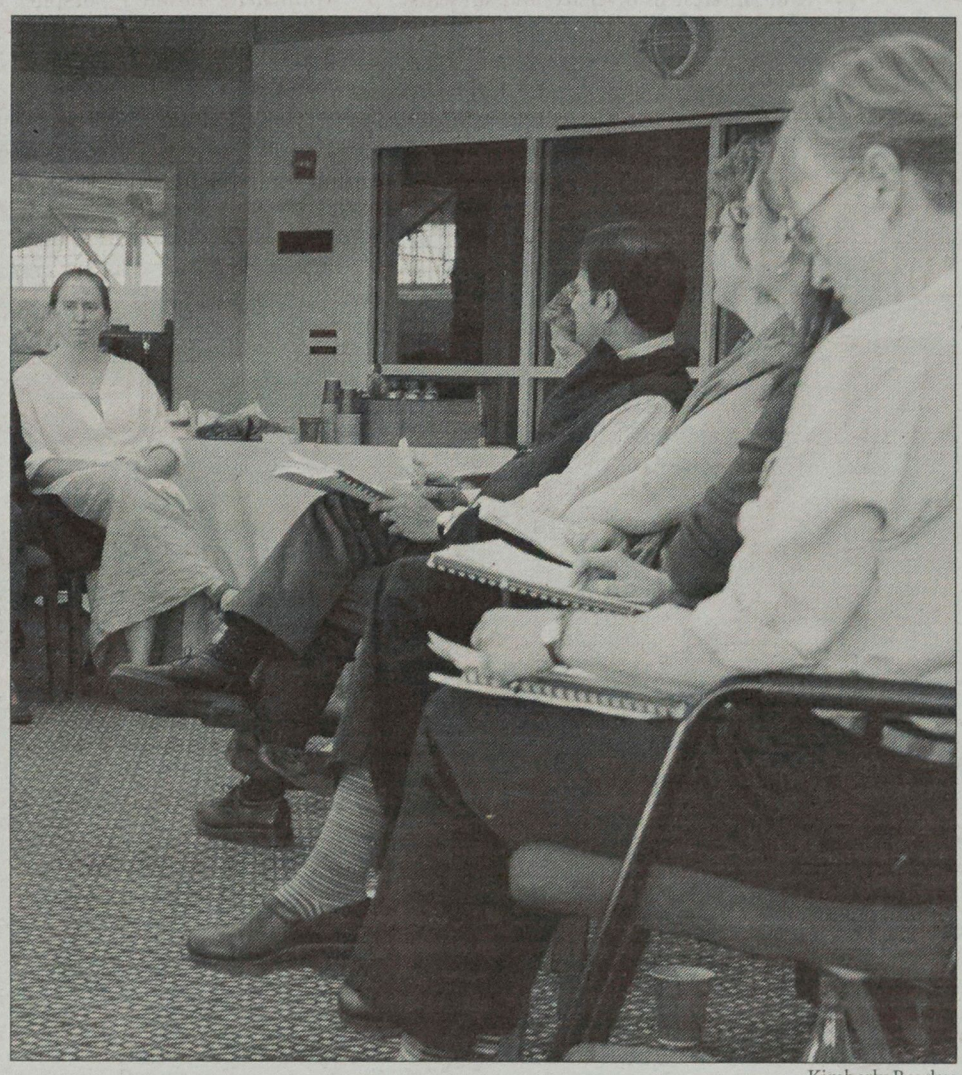
gate increase in "academic skillfulness" among Middlebury students as one partial explanation for grade inflation. Faculty members in favor of the recommendation conceded that there is no empirical evidence to support the proposed "A+" elimination.

Truscott Professor of Chinese Studies John Berninghausen stood behind the recommendation, noting that the Chinese Department has already abolished the "A+." He also commented that effort-based grading — a phenomenon which can be traced back to secondary school and beyond — has exacerbated grade inflation.

A second, related EAC recommendation proposes the incorporation of a "commendation" system modeled after Dartmouth College's citation system, which as been in place for 40 years. Under this system, faculty members would be able to recognize students for particularly outstanding academic achievements independent of final grades by filling out commendation cards. These commendations would become part of students' permanent records, and, according to supporters of the proposal, would be superior to the "A+" in terms of flexibility, transparency and ameliorating grade inflation. Administrators present at the meeting voiced concerns that the new system would present an "administrative hassle," since commendations would have to be processed along with transcripts.

Meeting attendees briefly considered a third recommendation which would allow for the readjustment of the numerical values assigned to letter grades to create a more equitable GPA scale. "A-" would be worth 3.67, "B+" would be worth 3.33, "B-" 2.67, and so on. This recommendation met with no dissent, and, if approved, will take affect next fall, so some students will have a mixture of grades from both the old and new scales.

Curt C. and Else Silberman Professor of Jewish Studies Robert Schine spoke briefly about an EAC-endorsed proposal for the structural solidification of a Jewish Studies Minor. Schine explained the duties of the program coordinator — to supervise curriculum and oversee an abundance of lectures and symposia — and emphasized that the proposal is only giving official structure to program that has already been in place for years. He said that the minor will operate in much the same way as the African American Studies and American Studies minors, among others.



Kimberly Bowker

Faculty discuss proposed EAC grading policy reforms on Tuesday in the Kenyon Lounge.

Wonnacott Commons Dean Matt Longman made a brief appearance to explain the significance of the "Failure or D Report" — a form that must accompany a faculty member's submission of a failing grade. Longman and others outlined a series of proposed changes to the form. A number of the attendees said the reports are often viewed by the faculty as an attempt to forcibly solicit justification for the submission of a low grade, or as a way of deterring low grade submission. Taking this into account, those who helped draft the new form agreed to make additional adjustments in order to make clear its purpose as a purely "informational" document.

OVERSEAS BRIEFING

BY SONJA PEDERSEN-GREEN

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC — Transportation in the Dominican Republic is a study in successful anarchy. There really is no transportation authority and there certainly are no schedules, yet somehow people manage to get where they need to go. They somehow get there relatively promptly, though Dominicans equate promptness as arriving within an hour of when they agreed to meet, which makes their definition slightly different than the North American definition of promptness.

I'm still confused why everyone here arrives as chronically late as they do because Dominicans drive at breakneck speeds and often ignore stop lights or stop signs. They simply honk their horns as they approach an intersection to alert other cars around that they're running the signals. For my first month in Santo Domingo, I actually thought that a red light must mean "go," or at least something quite different than it does in the United States.

Another problem compounding Dominican driving is the absence of drunk driving or open bottle laws. It's common to see someone slaking their thirst with a *Presidente* early on a sultry afternoon while behind the wheel of a beat up compact. Most Dominicans insist they know how to drive while intoxicated and claim the DR actually sees fewer accidents in most other countries.

The basic form of public transportation are the *carro publicos*, which are in indescript Japanese models from the early 70s. They usually have no windows, no interior upholstery, and when I rode in one, I had to close the door with a paper clip. These indescribably small cars manage to fit six passengers and a driver. The second transportation form is the *guaguas*. These are small busses, and like the carro publicos, are owned by an individual rather than a company or the government. Finally, there are also *guaguitas*, which are more or less about the size of a large minivan. Yesterday a van somehow managed to accommodate 32 passengers. These busses are usually in disreputable states of repair. The other day, I rode one dragging its muffler down the road.

In these first three forms of transport, there are no official stops, and instead people simply yell "*dejame*," or "leave me," when they want to get off. This usually results in the *guagua* stopping every block or so because most Dominicans are convinced walking is a waste of time. In all honesty, it's too steaming hot to walk anywhere.

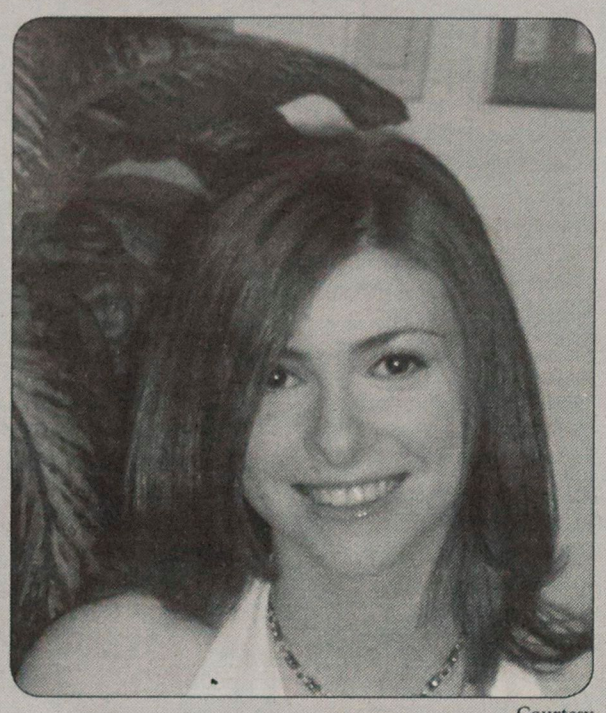
The final form of public transportation — and by far the most comfortable — are OMSAs. These government-run buses, although they would probably be considered to be on the lower end of U.S. bus quality scale, are a haven of tranquillity and cleanliness here in Santo Domingo. In addition to the occasional air conditioning, OSMAs also have designated stops. As a result they are far less popular with Dominicans. Apparently for the first few years after their inception, Dominicans just plain wouldn't take them. They couldn't grasp the concept of not being able to get off wherever or whenever they wanted. They only became popular after the country's president himself abandoned his limo for an OMSA to work every morning.

Learning to master transportation in the Dominican Republic has been both a difficult and fascinating experience. There really is no better way to get to know the people and the customs than to be literally sitting nearly on top of them. I guarantee that after this experience, I will no longer silently curse that bus, subway, plane or train in the United States when it's running a few minutes late.

INSIDE THE SGA

Eli Berman '07.5 steps aside, the candidates take the stage and *The Campus* delivers the latest scoop on Middlebury's Student Government Association (SGA). Read up on Sunday's meeting, meet the candidates for next week's race and hear what students have to say about the upcoming elections.

The Presidential Hopefuls



Courtesy

Alina Levina, Class of 2009

Alina Levina is running for SGA President because she envisions a "5 Step platform of concrete actions that [she hopes] to achieve by the end of 2007." These include reforms concerning "transportation, lighting, Sunday Dunch, a Book Fair and Performances."

Levina is a first-year, born in the Soviet Union, raised in Brooklyn and is part of the Posse Scholar program. Since her arrival in the fall, Levina has been involved with the Diversity Committee and as a cabinet member of the SGA. She believes that her work through Posse has proved to be a "testament to her commitment to leadership and scholastic commitment."

Levina has outlined specific actions that she would like to see accomplished during her tenure as SGA president. First she envisions an expanded transportation network consisting of additional service to Burlington, Boston, Montreal and New York. Levina also wants to address security at Middlebury: "I hope to work with [Public Safety] in an attempt to increase lighting on campus, and I want to place more blue lights throughout campus in strategic locations."

Levina would like to dramatically change Sunday food service by initiating a meal between the hours of 2 and 5 p.m. that she calls "Sunday dunch." Levina also believes that SGA can organize a book fair to resell used textbooks and increase sponsorship of social events. Through these five goals Levina hopes to use the role of SGA President as a "vehicle for improving the overall quality of life on campus."

—Dan Stevens

Alex Stanton, Class of 2007

Alex Stanton is running for SGA President because he loves Middlebury: "This school is a place I love and I want to do all that I can to make it better for those who come after me." Stanton hopes to do this through a specific agenda of goals as well as an overall vision of the College.

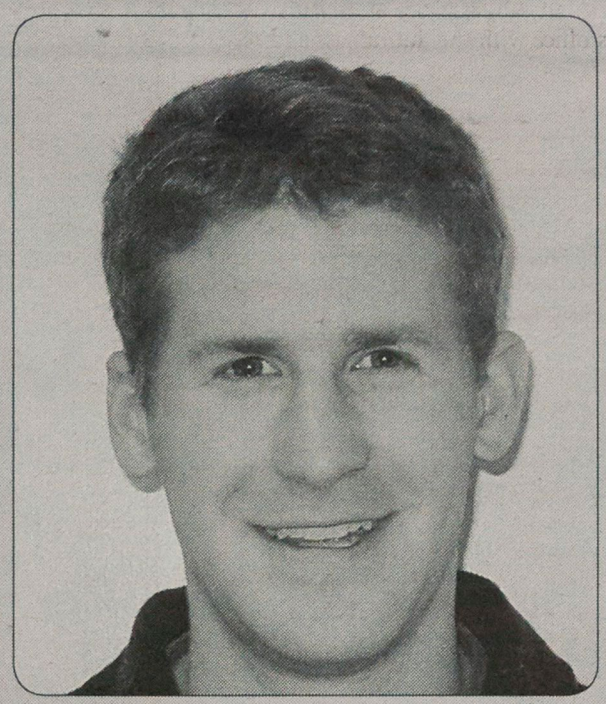
Stanton hails from Sudbury, Mass., and is a junior political science major. Stanton has been involved with numerous activities from intramural sports to serving this year as Speaker of the SGA Senate and a member of President Leibowitz's Task Force on Planning Communications during the long-range planning process that began last year.

Serving as Speaker of the Senate, Stanton has grown to appreciate "the power the student body can wield when it acts as a cohesive body." Because of this appreciation, Stanton sees his role as SGA president is to act as a "conduit to express [student] power to the appropriate officials."

Stanton also envisions a few specific reforms: transparency of governance bodies, increased use of alternative energy, implementing an off-campus safe-rides program and an interim room draw system. Stanton sees each of these measures as a way to "serve the diverse academic, social, environmental and cultural interests of Middlebury College."

In his campaign, Stanton looks to stress his seniority. "I plan to emphasize the fact that I have far more experience than my opponent and that I have created valuable contacts with the Administration that are necessary if an SGA President is to get anything accomplished."

—Dan Stevens



Courtesy

SGA recommends 'soft radius' smoking ban

Continued from page 1

tance from entryways," pointing out that there exists "neither an entitlement to be able to smoke on campus, nor one to have a smoke-free campus."

The Senate approved the bill with little opposition. However, Senator Jessica Singleton '08.5 motioned for a friendly amendment stating that senators will support and endorse the recommendation by writing op-eds. She believes this strategy is in line with the recommendation's "goal of mutual respect," supporting its soft-sphere ideology and off-radius nature.

"The reason that the soft radius is a good idea is because it isn't patronizing and enforcing," she said, adding that "indirect enforcement gives people the opportunity to be respectful of each other, and everyone should be aware of the need for the respect that we agree to when we sign the honor code."

The Community Council will consider the SGA's recommendation along with recommendations from the Faculty Council and Staff Council. In a recent vote, the staff council did not reach a clear consensus on the issue, but the most largely supported option involved a ban of smoking on campus.

"They have not actually weighed in with a recommendation," cautioned Dean of Student Affairs Ann Hanson as she played down the outcome of the staff council's vote. "They've only shared their votes." She added that the Community Council fears that professional staff responded mostly to the survey rather than staff without on-campus e-mail access.

"The faculty council and staff council may have different recommendations and we'll try to work towards a compromise," explained Eli Berman with regards to the plurality of opinion that the Community Council will sort through. Still, he asserted that "(Senators) Max Nardini, Antoinette Rangel and I will be there and we'll push for this respect, a respectful distance away from the door."

After passing the recommendation, the SGA summoned several members of its Finance Committee to the front of the room for a lengthy discussion. The Finance Committee is an administrative body that tries to allot the Student Activities Fund based on what committee member Ben Lowenburg '06 described as "the concept that this money is given to students for the purpose of supporting student life on campus."

Many of the Senate's questions revolved around the Finance Committee's perceived place within the power structure of the student government. Lowenburg explained that the Committee is a non-elective, administrative body that is applicant-based because it doesn't want to be political at all. He added that the Committee follows a very strict set of guidelines when delegating money.

Still, other members of the Senate questioned whether these guidelines served the interests of every single group on campus. The Finance Committee agreed that while 95 percent of incoming fund requests pose no problems, more can be done to properly handle the five percent of applicants who conflict with the rigid guidelines.

Berman defended the Finance Committee, saying that it has done a great job.

"They follow the guidelines perfectly, and nobody is questioning their integrity or anything," he said, while noting that complaints about the Finance Committee have been "at an all-time low."

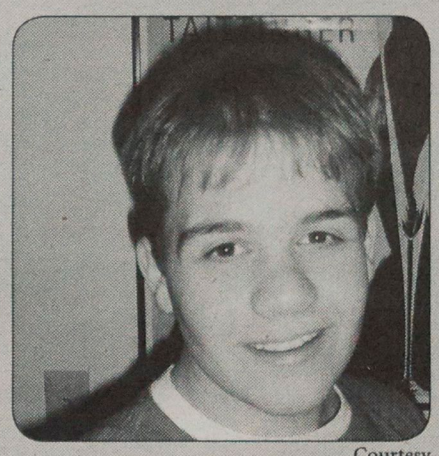
The discussion culminated with the formation of an ad-hoc committee, consisting of members from both the Senate and the Finance Committee, to discuss reforming the Finance Committee to create what Berman called "a structure that best allows for student initiatives."

Berman added that "the primary way to do that is with communication. Right now we want to make them more accountable to someone, to make it so that conversation is completely necessary in order to function."

ELECTIONS 2006

The SCCOCC Candidates

Ryan Tauriainen, Class of 2008



Courtesy

Ryan Tauriainen is running for Student Co-Chair of Community Council (SCCOCC) because he feels he is the "best person to present the voice of this school." Along with a number of other specific goals, Ryan wants to open the dialogue between the student body and the administration and improve Middlebury by working directly with the administration.

Tauriainen is a rising junior from Grants Pass, Ore., and he is involved with the Middlebury co-ed competitive cheerleading team and Feminist Action at Middlebury. Through these activities Ryan has learned about eating disorders at Middlebury and has tried to improve the current situation. Along with this focus, Ryan believes the SCCOCC is a great position to facilitate discussions of "alcohol, racism and smoking on campus."

Tauriainen is a Classics major with a focus in Latin and is looking to improve the community at Middlebury. His statement of intent outlines what he feels are the most pressing topics facing the Middlebury community. "I believe the [College] rules concerning issues such as alcohol, smoking, self-defense and racism do not directly follow the laws of this country and are vague and unfair," Tauriainen wrote.

Tauriainen plans to push hard for the SCCOCC position in the next few days by posting banners and even mounting a door-to-door campaign to raise student awareness. His simple goal is to improve the College: "I can only promise that I would treat this office with the dutifulness and respect that it deserves and serve the students of this College to the best of my ability."

—Dan Stevens

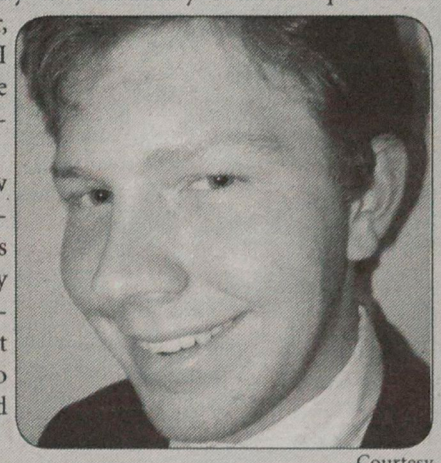
Mike Tierney, Class of 2009.5

Michael Tierney is running for SCCOCC because he knows "the sense of community that is present here in the College." Tierney would especially like to focus on "[bringing] the College together."

Tierney is a first-year Feb from Boston. Since his arrival just a few months ago, he has been involved with the musical "Into the Woods" and has signed up to help out with next year's first-year orientation, among other activities. Tierney believes these activities have given him an acute sense of the Middlebury community.

More than any single issue, Tierney would like to build the community at Middlebury College. Specifically, Tierney believes in expanding avenues for social life. "I am interested in trying to bolster support for both the commons and social houses as well as trying to integrate the commons more through co-sponsored events," he said.

Tierney is focused on the needs of all students. "If elected I'd be there to fight for the initiatives students are really passionate about, because that ties us together. I promise to bring my vision of 'community' to Community Council. I promise to communicate well with the faculty co-chair, the SGA Senate and the SGA president. I promise to bring dedication to amplify the student voice, and bring about ways to enhance life at Middlebury."



Courtesy

Tierney will work hard in the next few days to secure votes by littering the campus with campaign paraphernalia as well as finding out the specific needs of students by interacting with the community. "If I'm going to run as a representative for the student body, and being a student myself, I need to know well the concerns of those I would represent."

—Dan Stevens

Courtesy

Annie Williams, Class of 2007

Annie Williams is running for SCCOCC because she "believes that Community Council takes on the comprehensive approach required of effective college governance." Rather than any specific proposal, Williams sees the position as a place to expand the student body's role in the College's affairs.

Williams comes to Middlebury from Bedford, N.Y., and is a junior International Studies major. She has been involved with the SGA as a senator representing Atwater Commons. Through her time as an SGA senator, Williams became aware of the many issues facing the College and sought different solutions through the SGA.

Williams's vision for the SCCOCC is one that indoctrinates the opinions of all students. "My primary objective [as SCCOCC] would be to effectively represent the student body — a goal that I plan to achieve through an open channel of communication." Williams plans to assemble e-mail lists and to hold meetings to discuss the issues that Community Council will be discussing.

Although Williams sees the folly in promising specific rewards to the voting students, she does see a couple of prospective hopes. She looks to open dialogue concerning the expansion of wireless capabilities across the campus and continue the discussion about the SafeRides program.

Williams also sees her role as SCCOCC as a position to rectify Middlebury apathy. Williams cites a cycle that has caused "the deterioration of the relationship between the student body and the administration." She hopes to rectify that cycle. "I pledge to dedicate my efforts toward the realization of student's desires via Community Council resolutions."

—Dan Stevens

Students Weigh In

"Little man, big ideas. He's going to get a lot done. There's no question he's going to get a lot done."

—Neiman Groce '07 regarding SGA Presidential candidate Alex Stanton

"I don't think SGA does much of anything and I don't think they have in the past, either."

—Colin Penley '06

"I think Alex Stanton's a really good candidate ... I think that the SGA position is for an upperclassman."

—Sarah Shaikh '07

"I didn't vote."

—Andrew Chambers '08

COLLEGE SHORTS

BY LISIE MEHLMAN

Apple develops iTunes U for use at universities

ITunes U, a program that partners Apple with universities in order to help them distribute educational content via the Internet using an iTunes-inspired format, has been implemented at six universities nationwide and Apple is seeking to expand the program's usage on college campuses. University of Michigan School of Dentistry, Brown, Duke and Stanford are among six universities currently test piloting the program before its nationwide launch.

While iPods are now ubiquitous on college campuses, the iTunes U program allows students the chance to use them for educational purposes. With iTunes U, students can review lectures with the use of headphones and can download audio-visual course material. It is Apple's hope that this program will make material both more accessible to and more appealing for students.

Lynn Johnson, director of information technology at the University of Michigan School of Dentistry, said that "Our students found that they couldn't take notes fast enough. They like being able to review over and over again. They like not having the pressure of having to get all the notes down in class, and instead they're able to concentrate on the content."

Apple is currently discussing the expansion of its iTunes U program with several other colleges across the country. While Johnson noted that "People are really hopping onto this big time," and that "this has been extremely successful for us," but it remains to be seen if this program will become a phenomenon.

—U-wire

Developments in Durham reveal no DNA match

On Monday, Durham County District Attorney Michael B. Nifong reported that the female exotic dancer and North Carolina Central student who accused three male Duke lacrosse players of rape identified at least one of them from a photo montage last week. This new information was released just one day following the release of DNA testing results that failed to show any match from 46 lacrosse players on the woman's body or possessions.

The female claims that she was assaulted on March 13 at an off-campus residence where she was hired to perform for the lacrosse players.

Nifong explained that lack of DNA evidence "is the case in 75 to 80 percent of all sexual assaults" and that he still believes that assault occurred. Even without DNA evidence, Nifong said that anytime a sexual assault victim identifies an assailant, a trial should ensue.

Lawyers representing the Duke lacrosse players, however, maintain that the lack of DNA evidence showed that the rape accusation is false. When Nifong spoke to 400 people at an informational meeting at North Carolina Central Monday, he ensured audience members that, "My presence here means this case is not going away."

The Duke men's lacrosse team's season was officially canceled and the team's coach of 16 years resigned in response to a deragatory e-mail sent by the team's captain.

—The New York Times

Two garner annual Angels Award

Albert Bitici

The five nominees for the Angels Award gathered in Mead Chapel while the Orange Grove Gospel Choir takes a break during Saturday's concert.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

fany Holmes. The award was presented during intermission, and Artist-in-Residence in Dance Amy Chavasse, dressed in all white, performed a moving, interpretative dance to honor the memory of the Angels. This year was the first time in the history of the award that it was presented to co-recipients, Merisha Enoe '08 and Angelica Towne '08. Of Enoe, as written in her nomination, Gentry wrote, "Merisha is the type of leader that leads because it is in her heart, she never asks for praise, she doesn't flaunt what she does, she doesn't expect recognition." Of Towne, it was written that, "Her accomplishments encompass a wide range of service to the campus community, focusing on her areas of passion — social justice, integration or ideals into action, conflict resolution and helping those in need." Other nominees included Maegan North '08, Morgane Richardson '08 and Esther Guidos '08.

An added perk of the choir's visit was a gospel workshop that was offered the morning of their performance, in which members of the College and community were invited to learn a song and perform it with the group during the show. Emily Eliot '07.5, who participated in the workshop, said, "Watching the performance from the audience was a wonderful experience, but being up there in the middle of it was absolutely incredible. The women I was surrounded by had these powerful, booming voices that just came right from the gut, and it was pretty moving to have them singing right into my ear."

Of the show, Director of Choral Music Jeff Rehbach said, "This past weekend's performance was powerful in its own way, particularly the strength of singing of the chorus and soloists, with the dynamic support of percussion and keyboards, all amplified to fill Mead Chapel with a sound we often don't hear in that space. The words of faith and hope, often with refrains over and over in gospel music style, clearly came not just from the singers' voices, but also from their hearts."

The words of faith and hope, often with refrains over and over in gospel music style, clearly came not just from the singers' voices, but also from their hearts.

—Jeff Rehbach

The choir was well-received by both the College and town community. Within the College, the choir, in an effort to experience the real campus feeling, "dined in Ross and Atwater dining halls," Gentry said. Additionally, "many students approached [Gentry] asking if it would be okay to eat with the choir, or to be introduced to choir members, and several students who attended the concert approached the director to thank him for such an inspiring and uplifting concert."

In honoring the College's beloved Angels, the choir succeeded in bringing to the College a message of warmth, love and remembrance through the power of music. Associate Chaplain Rabbi Ira Schiffer said, "I was very moved by the energy, dedication, faith and wonderful musicianship of the Orange Grove Choir," adding, "I can't imagine a more fitting way to honor the memory of the Angels."

public safety log

APRIL 5, 2006 TO APRIL 9, 2006

DATE	TIME	INCIDENT	CATEGORY	LOCATION	DISPOSITION
4/5/06	11:35 p.m.	Alcohol	Illegal Party	Allen Hall	Referred to Commons Dean
4/5/06	2-3:00 p.m.	Theft	Watch	Athletics Complex	No Suspects
4/7/06	2:35 a.m.	Alcohol	Possession by a Minor	Mead Memorial Chapel	Referred to Commons Dean
4/7/06	11:21 p.m.	Alcohol	Underage Drinking	Milliken	Referred to Commons Dean
4/1/06	Early Morning Hours	Sexual Assaults	Two Incidents of Sexual Assault	Prescott (ADP)	MPD Investigation
4/8/06	1:56 p.m.	Vandalism	N/A	Gifford	No Suspects
4/8/06	12:15 a.m.	Burglary	Food Supply	Ross	Referred to Commons Dean
4/8/06	2:05 a.m.	Vandalism	N/A	Ross	No Suspects
4/8/06	2:30 a.m.	Alcohol	Possession by a Minor	Gifford	Referred to Commons Dean
4/8/06	9:25 p.m.	Drug Violation	N/A	Fletcher	Referred to Commons Dean
4/8/06	10:10 p.m.	Alcohol	Possession by a Minor	Coffrin	Referred to Commons Dean
4/9/06	2:11 a.m.	Alcohol	Possession by a Minor	Atwater	Referred to Commons Dean
4/9/06	2:05 a.m.	Alcohol	Possession by a Minor	KDR	Referred to Commons Dean
4/9/06	12:42 a.m.	Alcohol	Possession by a Minor	Atwater	Referred to Commons Dean
4/9/06	12:34 a.m.	Alcohol	Possession by a Minor	Atwater	Referred to Commons Dean
4/9/06	12:22 a.m.	Alcohol	Underage Drinking	Hepburn Road	Referred to Commons Dean
4/9/06	12:44 a.m.	Alcohol	Possession by a Minor	Stewart	Referred to Commons Dean

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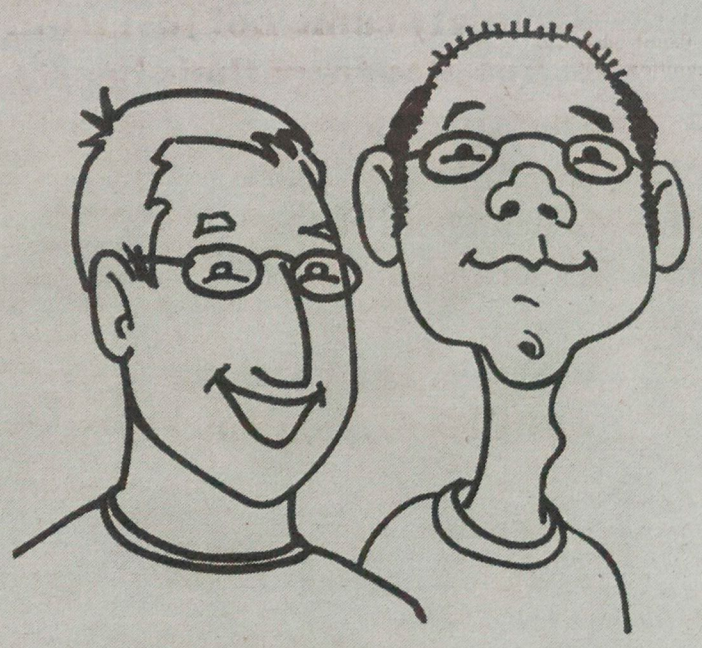

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localnews

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FILLING THE VOID
MEXICAN WORKERS CRUCIAL TO VERMONT FARMS

9
GREEN LIGHT
SCHOOL BOARD AGREES TO ALLOW GAY RIGHTS PRESENTATION

Immigrant issue hits home for locals

Debate illuminates status of Vermont's illegal immigrants

By Andrea Glaessner
Local News Editor

Courtesy

Though often not visible, Mexican immigrants such as these in Oklahoma reside in Vermont as well.

Recent demonstrations by illegal immigrants in response to crackdowns on U.S. border control and deportation have prompted legislators to once again examine an issue that has been the source of fiery debate since the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. In what *The New York Times* called "the largest effort by immigrants to influence public policy in history," thousands of illegal immigrants rallied against a radically stringent enforcement bill passed by the House of Representatives.

Professor of Political Science Eric Davis explained some of the implications of the Congressional bill including a proposal to build a fence along the border of the United States and Mexico, giving local law enforcement the authority to inquire about citizenship status without probable cause and making illegal immigration a felony. The bill failed in the Senate last week, but legislators are still working to draft new legislation to address the revolutionary demand that illegal immigrants be granted citizenship and that their hardships and dignity as fellow human beings be acknowledged.

The recent debates shine light on Vermont's own state of affairs involving illegal immigrants, who are indispensable to communities across the state — farming communities in particular — yet they remain largely hidden. Although Vermont has no where near the number of illegal immigrants as states that are situated on the Mexican border, the state does depend on hidden groups of Mexican workers economically. Perhaps the fact that Mexican immigrants residing in Vermont are so absent from public view is an indication of the great lengths people who depend on them will go in order to protect them from deportation.

Unlike Mexican immigrants in other parts of the United States, those in Vermont are not explicitly demanding citizenship. Most are male farm workers who are here for a finite period of time and plan to return to Mexico to rejoin their families. An individual who works with some illegal immigrants in Vermont explained that these farm laborers "are only here to work as much as they possibly can. They take out what they need for food and send the rest back to their families, since they simply cannot support them in Mexico." Furthermore, the individual mused, "Why would you risk life and limb to cross a border where there are vigilantes with shotguns and you can die in the desert, if you didn't have another choice."

Getting to the United States is hard enough, and having to go back and do it all over again is even harder, but apparently not insurmountable. In fact, *New York Times* op-ed contributor Douglas S. Massey noted that "although border militarization had little effect on the probability of Mexicans immigrating illegally, it did reduce the likelihood that they would return to their homeland. America's tougher line roughly tripled the average cost of getting across the border illegally; thus Mexicans who had run the gantlet at the border were more likely to hunker down and stay in the United States." Massey's estimates indicate that "in the early 1980s, about half of all undocumented Mexicans returned home within 12 months of entry, but by 2000 the rate of return migration stood at just 25 percent."

They may not go to the farms [in search of illegal immigrants], but that doesn't stop them from standing in the Walmart parking lot looking for broken taillights with a Mexican behind the wheel. It's wrong, but it's done."

— A Vermonter who works with illegal immigrants

In Vermont, a largely homogenous northern state, illegal Mexican immigrants are a low percentage of the population and "stick out like a sore thumb". Because it is such a taboo subject with so many interests at stake, it is difficult to gather accurate statistics on the number of illegal immigrants in Vermont. Estimates include between two and four hundred illegal immigrant farm workers in Addison County, and 1,500 total in the state of Vermont. On most farms, there exists a symbiotic relationship between Mexican illegal immigrants and their patron, or farm employer, on protection from deportation. An individual who works with immigrant farm laborers commented that "they're being somewhat exploited because they're not always paid entirely fair wages and they're not always housed appropriately, but the vast majority of farm employers here [treat them reasonably well]."

Many other Vermonters are actively involved in protecting illegal immigrants in Vermont out of humanitarian concern. Social service organizations, especially those dealing with healthcare and education, have shown honorable respect and concern for the dignity and well-being of Mexican immigrants. A Vermont Health Care professional said, "It's just like going to the emergency room, you just take care of them, period. That's what medical professionals do. Citizenship and other legal issues are irrelevant. We have to ensure their safety and the safety of others who might be vulnerable to contagious illnesses."

But all Vermonters involved with illegal immigrants, whether out of necessity or empathy, recognize the sensitive nature of discussion on the subject, and are hesitant to release information, no matter how objective or statistical, that may corrupt the extremely delicate relationship between local law enforcement and illegal immigrants. All have requested that their names not be released, concerned that anti-immigration activists will investigate and report any information to local law enforcement.

Although local law enforcement is technically not allowed to inquire about an individual's citizenship status without reasonable suspicion, they have been known to engage in racial profiling. As one individual who has worked with local illegal immigrants noted, "They [law enforcers] may not go to the farms [in search of illegal immigrants], but that doesn't stop them from standing in the Walmart parking lot looking for broken taillights with a Mexican behind the wheel. It's wrong, but it's done." Another individual cited allegations that border patrol officers at a checkpoint along the northern border of Vermont and Canada near White River Junction on I-91 frequently engaged in "excessive and rigorous questioning and searching of individuals of both Hispanic and Middle Eastern descent."

Some Vermonters, especially small farmers, disapprove of illegal immigration, because if one farm does it, the others must follow suit to compete. The farmers who fear the implications of the illegality claim they "don't like the direction farming is heading," since more and more farms are dependent on cheap labor to survive in a market increasingly dominated by massive agricultural conglomerates which are able to replace human labor with machines. One individual aptly noted, "If the farmers can't get cheap labor, they're going to sell their farm to a developer and I can't blame them. But if they do it's bad for all of us, not just for those in dairyland, but for those who care about the environment and the destruction large farms can cause.

But on America's farms, illegal immigrants are not just attractive cheap labor, they are irreplaceable for their willingness to do the work that Americans are disinclined, and even loath, to do. Individuals in the United States who claim illegal immigrants are taking jobs from "honest, hardworking" Americans often do not recognize how difficult it is for farms to find laborers to do farm work that is physically and mentally taxing for such low wages. Furthermore, Americans are not always dependable farm laborers. Their acute awareness of the distinctly American opportunity for citizens to have upward mobility makes them more likely to walk away from the rough life of farm labor when a better opportunity presents itself. Mexican laborers, on the contrary, are incredibly hardworking and real assets to production according to their employers.

Though essentially concealed, the invisible communities of Mexican immigrants are vital to Vermont livelihood. One advocate for the rights of illegal immigrants commented, "This is an issue beyond illegality. It's about economics, the environment, and humanity. Americans who argue for deportation and stringent illegal immigration laws would be well advised to "stop and think," of one Vermonter's query, "the next time you go to a restaurant, do you want to pay $25 for a hamburger?"

Outright Vermont combats bullying

Emphasis on sexual orientation prompts parental concerns

By Katherine Doorley
Local News Editor

Outright Vermont, an organization dedicated to promoting tolerance and support for all sexual orientations, will present an anti-bullying program at the Williston Central School after the school board unanimously voted to allow the program to take place. A few weeks earlier, the principal of the school, in conjunction with school board members, had decided to postpone the event due to complaints from several parents about the nature of the program for students.

The anti-bullying presentation by Outright Vermont is part of a program instituted by the Williston School District to address issues of bullying in schools as part of the Safe and Supportive Schools program. Outright Vermont was asked to participate in part due to its goal of "fostering sensitivity and understanding of the issues facing gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth." Outright Vermont has developed a program entitled "That's so gay: Addressing Anti-Gay Bullying in Schools," which is designed to help students understand how they fit into the cycle of bullying and what actions can be taken to stop it. Of the reported incidents of bullying at Williston Central School last year, 49 percent were based on sexual orientation, which was an additional motivating factor for the program. However, the group's presence, as well as the presence of a gay teenager, raised concerns from parents about what the program was attempting to teach its children.

> Of the reported incidents of bullying at Williston Central School, 49 percent were based on sexual orientation.

The Williston School Board held a widely-attended open meeting on Monday, April 4, in order to discuss the cancellation of the program. At the meeting, two different proposals were presented: Either the program would take place as originally scheduled, but with the option to have parents sign their children out of the program, or else Outright Vermont would present a program to children whose parents gave them written permission. The entire school would then attend a presentation from guidance counselors and local high school students who had witnessed bullying. Outright Vermont Director Kate Jerman stated that she was not certain Outright Vermont would have been willing to participate in the latter version of the program.

After a four-hour meeting at which over 50 different people, ranging from students to administrators, spoke, the board decided unanimously to keep the program as originally proposed. While some parents are undoubtedly upset about the outcome, the board's decision represents as close to a middle ground as they could come without fundamentally altering the nature of Outright Vermont's presentation and message. For now, the program will be presented, although the conflict over the content of the presentation and the presence of an openly gay high school student in the middle school only serves to accentuate the continued tension over the issue of gay rights in Vermont.

A "Brand" New Middlebury

Gathering at the Kirk Alumni Center, The Middlebury Business Association sponsored an event on Tuesday to discuss the economic future of the town of Middlebury. Speakers recognized that both international and domestic factors were shifting Middlebury from an agricultural and industrial town to one based more on services. As such, the meeting was the first step in developing a new brand for the town to promote futher economic expansion and community involvement.

Kimberly Bowker

THE LOCAL FLAVOR

By Jack Lysohir
Assistant Opinions Editor

Looking for a classy dining alternative to the cumbersome menu of "Fire and Ice?" Then travel north on Rt. 7 for just a minute to the favorite bunking place of many Middlebury College parents, The Swift House Inn. Although the Inn itself is a relatively new entity — founded in the early 1980s — the buildings it comprises are rich with local history. The Inn is made up of the former estate of the late Samuel Swift (1792-1875), a prominent Middlebury resident who built the first house in 1814.

Today the Inn offers rooms and small houses for those wishing to stay for a night, a week or even an entire season. One of the great amenities of the Swift House Inn is its highly-acclaimed kitchen, open both to hotel patrons and the general public. The restaurant has a main dining room and also offers two private rooms, which may be rented out for groups of eight or more. These private rooms offer all the luxuries and comfortable domestic qualities of a dining room in a great house — a fireplace, book-lined shelves and warm decorations.

The Swift House's reputation in central Vermont is nearly unparalleled. The kitchen staff even offers a culinary school at different points throughout the year. The menu, while not lengthy, is varied. To start, the Vermont chevre and caramelized mushroom ravioli is a great choice. The artichoke fritters are another good choice — these tempura-battered long stem artichokes are fried in a delicious roasted garlic aioli. The Swift House also makes good on an Italian favorite with its smoky bruschetta. The delicious mozzarella from nearby Maplebrook Farm is at once fresh and light and the natural yellow peppers and baby spinach add delicious, fresh and local flavor Swift House is dedicated to local foods as a member of "Vermont Fresh Network" and the "Slow Food Movement".

The entrees, all priced at $18, varied in quality. The Maple Leaf Farm's roasted duck breast is a great choice. This tender duck breast is roasted to perfection with crispy skin outside and a soft, tasty inside. The pan seared sea scallops are another good choice. Although not seared to perfection, they are served atop a creamy Yukon gold potato gratin that offers a poignant flavor that tickles the palate. The hand-cut Black Angus Strip Steak — almost a sure thing in Vermont — did not deliver on its promise. The steak was not a fine cut with much fat and still over cooked, even at the recommended medium-rare. The grilled lamb top round, also hand cut, did not please either.

To complete the prix fixe dinner of $28, one can add a desert to the appetizer and entrée. The desert menu is a treasure trove of Vermont dairy bliss. The New York style blackberry swirl cheesecake is a must, even if one doesn't like cheesecake, blackberry or New York. For chocolate lovers, the peanut butter moulton chocolate cake is great.

The service at the Swift House was very good. The staff truly takes pride in the restaurants tradition of superior meals. The feeling of the Swift House is at once one of comfort and coziness. While waiting to be seated, one can sit on a comfy couch and look out at great, full windows at a picture of beautiful, timeless Vermont. There is no rush while eating at Swift House, because the Inn's mixture of dark and light and its cozy New England ambience invites you to stay. Although the entire menu was not spectacular, Swift House's prix fixe dinner is unparalleled in Middlebury.

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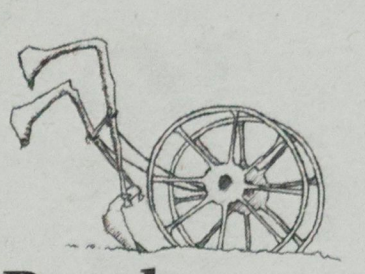

Rural Banter

BY ERICA GOODMAN

Delany Construction Corporation, specializing in heavy machinery and highway maintenance, is on strike, and the inhabitants of Goodman Road are silently smiling. The pause in construction is a minor disturbance compared to the refusal of New York City transit employees to work or the umpires' strike suffered by Major League Baseball in the not-so-distant past. And yet the halted activity of the hard-hat donning members of Delany has spread a sigh of relief through the valley.

As avid readers of this column might recall, a large chunk of property from the dairy farmed owned by my family for generations was sold last fall to Adirondack Golden Goal (AGG), a company that plans to use the land for a youth soccer camp. And so, for the past year and a half, bulldozers and dump trucks have torn through the former hay fields and forever altered the landscape.

The family understands that the deal with the soccer camp is a good one for my uncles, who are not getting any younger. Yet it should be no surprise that I, along with my family members, prefer the serenity and whimsicality of the pastoral landscape over the static rigidity of concrete buildings and artificial turf fields.

Now, as the only hum of diesel engines is from tractors tilling the soil to add life rather than to rip up of the earth, my family is silently celebrating and praying that the negotiations between Delany and AGG will be worked out slowly. The scenery has changed before this time, and will continue to do so into the future. It is the history of the land to mold and evolve, erode and create. But the land is more than property, it is home. No member of our family has ever made his or her permanent residence outside of the rural countryside. The changes that have formerly taken place were enacted by the whims of nature or the hands of a farmer. In selling that capability away, the roots of our home have been torn up.

Although the loss of the land tears me apart, it also makes me realize the importance of home, of having a place or a group of individuals who have helped shape you into the person you've become. Sometimes as we travel the globe trying to find ourselves, we forget that the core of who we are was created long ago. The farm on Goodman Road has been the site of home for generations of hardworking individuals. As the contractors battle the camp directors for proper funding, my family has taken the extra time to sanctify the place. Home will, for just a little while longer, remain intact.

opinions

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Editorials

New grading scale proposals score an "A"

Eliminating the "A +" from the transcripts of Middlebury students is the right decision for faculty to make in regards to grading. The added plus does not affect grade point averages. "A" and "A+" both garnered a 4.0 numerical value, and in fact gave a sophomoric air to official College documents.

On the other hand, giving professors the option of attaching a citation to transcripts could conceivably offer graduate school admissions boards and potential employers more insight where exceptional work has been done.

Eliminating discrepancies in the numeric value differences between letter grades is a long-overdue correction to the system. Under the old system, the interval between a "B+" and an "A-," for example, was 0.4 while the interval between "B" and "B-" was 0.3. Since the B+ / A- line is possibly the most common border-line decision professors make, the new scale would appropriately equalize the entire system by setting the intervals between all scales at either 0.33 or 0.34.

Not too late to save newspapers

The Campus is pleased that the Student Government Association (SGA) made known the desperate plight of the Collegiate Readership Program, which brings the national press into dining halls daily, through an all-student e-mail. Students have now essentially been given an ultimatum to reform their reading-and-leaving habits.

While ultimately the fate of the program is in the hands of students themselves, there are a few more steps the SGA could take before turning its back on the program the organization itself sponsors. Middlebury College is far too isolated to cut yet another tie to the outside world.

Given the tendency of students to adopt a delete-and-forget attitude to mass e-mails, strategically placed signs in the dining halls reminding students to put away newspapers or risk losing them could serve as a daily reminder.

Moving the newspaper deposit bins to a more conspicuous location would also help. In Proctor, for example, the bins are barely visible, so placing bins adjacent to or in front of tray drop-off spots would make depositing newspapers before leaving the natural step to take.

Online draw: multiple options 'blocked'

Running the room draw process online through BannerWeb is a natural step for the College to take, but while it alleviated some of the chaos and stress from the process, the new block draw system also created new problems. Large and small block draw - formerly distinct events - are now combined into one 48-hour period. This means that seniors competing for a coveted seven or eight person house will not also have the back-up opportunity to split their groups into smaller blocks, causing increased stress and potentially straining friendships.

OPINIONS SUBMISSION POLICY

The Opinions pages of *The Middlebury Campus* provide a forum for constructive and respectful dialogue on substantive issues. With this in mind, *The Campus* reserves the right to deny publication of all or part of a submission for any reason. This includes, but is not limited to: the making of assertions based on hearsay; the relation of private conversations; the libelous mention of unverifiable events; the use of vulgar language or personal attacks. Any segment of a submitted article that contains any of the aforementioned will be removed before publication. Contributors will be allowed to reference prior articles published in the Opinions section or announcements for the public record. If a reference is made to prior articles, the submission will be considered a letter to the editor. *The Campus* will not accept or print anonymous letters. The opinions expressed by contributors to the Opinions section, as well as reviews, columns, editorial comics and other commentary, are views of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the newspaper. *The Campus* welcomes letters to the editor at 250 words or less, or opinions submissions at 800 words or less. Submit works directly to the Opinions Editor, Drawer 30, campus@middlebury.edu or via the paper's website at www.middleburycampus.com. To be considered for publications, submissions must be received by 5 p.m. Tuesday. *The Campus* reserves the right to edit all submissions.

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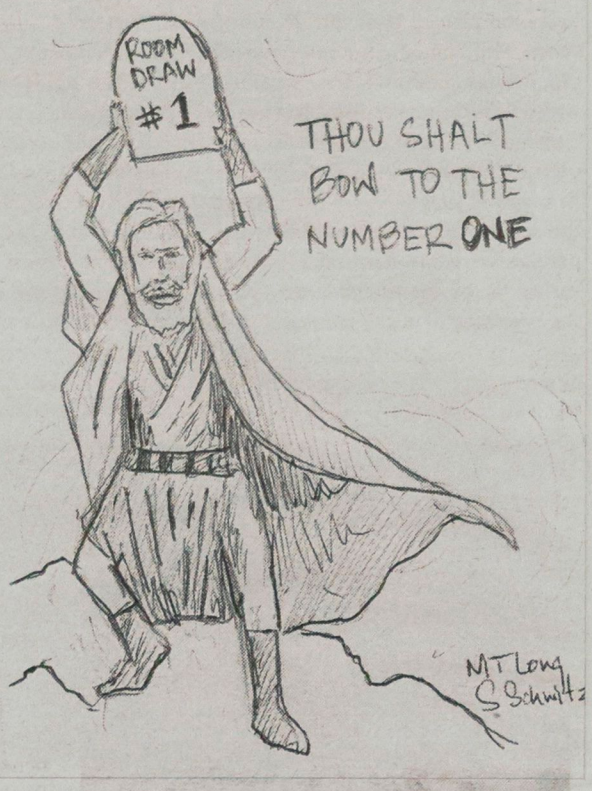
HEARD ON CAMPUS

"I SPOKE WITH MANY STUDENT LEADERS, DOING MANY IMPORTANT THINGS, AND I REALIZED THAT WE REALLY DO HAVE THE POWER TO MAKE EFFECTUAL CHANGE."

— Eli Berman, SGA President, at Sunday's SGA Announcement of Presidential Candidates for 2006-2007.



Believe it or not, you're a Feminist

Feminism. How many of you scoff at the word, laugh or think of bra burning, man hating, unshaven, liberal women? Far too many. But let's step back from this cultural stigma against the F-word and re-evaluate what feminism truly is, and more importantly, what being a feminist really implies.

For our generation, we need to understand feminism apart from the stereotypical model society has constructed. Perhaps it's better to start by thinking of what feminism is not. It is neither radical nor violent. It is not restricted to liberal, unshaven, Amazonian women. It is most definitely not a "she-woman man-haters club" (men can be feminists too).

And most importantly, it is not over. Feminism, contrary to popular belief, did not die with the 19th Amendment or Title IX. There are still causes to be fought for and issues to be raised. Feminists are not begging for gender neutrality, rather for gender acknowledgement. Men and women do serve separate roles and do have different strengths, but many of those strengths have been overridden by historical oppression.

As Sally Ride put it, in light of recent controversy over women's mathematical ability, "Suppose you came across a woman lying on the street with an elephant sitting on her chest. You notice she is short of breath. Shortness of breath can be a symptom of heart problems. In her case, the much more likely cause is the elephant on her chest. For a long time, society put obstacles in the way of women who wanted to enter the sciences. That is the elephant.

"Until the playing field has been leveled and lingering stereotypes are gone, you can't even ask the question."

Being a feminist is not as radical as it sounds. Care about breast cancer awareness? Glad to be a woman playing sports, voting or having access to your own bank account? Think domestic violence is still an issue?

Have an opinion about abortion and reproductive rights? Want to choose your career or choose to stay at home, or do you want your mother and sister to have the freedom to choose? How about equal pay for equal work? If you care about any one of these issues, congratulations—you are a feminist. So for those of you who say, "I support women's rights, but I'm not a feminist," I hate to disappoint, but you are.

It's not fair to ride on the back of the women before us who dedicated their lives to equal opportunity and not acknowledge their contributions. There is something to be said for sisterhood and as the Spice Girls so eloquently put it, "girl power." The least we can do is re-evaluate feminism. Maybe we should just start calling ourselves "choice-ists" or "women advocates," or even just 50 percent of the population asking for 100 percent opportunity.

HALLIE FOX '09
ROOSEVELT INSTITUTION'S CENTER ON WOMEN AND GENDER

Democracy? SGA President or bust

Democracy is not the only answer. Indeed, many times democracy — and here I refer to the American political example — is a bad answer at best.

The advantages of a democratic system should be obvious to everybody — group involvement, group decisions and group investment. By including everybody, democracy seeks to curb the abuse of power, the abuse of minority groups and ensure that decisions are generally acceptable and representative of the common view. A quick look at the American government will show you the gaping flaws in such flimsy rationalization. This brings us to the Middlebury Student Government Association (SGA), as democratically founded an institution as ever existed, and just as ineffectual.

Democracy is SLOW. This is a point which I cannot emphasize enough. Discussion between intelligent people takes a good deal of time. Unfortunately the type of people who tend to run for office, especially high office, are not intelligent people. They are opinionated, always think they're right and will never let an argument die without a confirmed victory. You know who they are.

So let us imagine actually trying to accomplish anything with a group of such closed-minded people. Then let's add Robert's Rules of Order, as ingenious a waster of time as has ever been devised, some official Middlebury bureaucracy, because we don't go through enough at room draw, and finally add the fact that if your action offends ANYONE these days, you can expect a law suit. What can you accomplish? Nothing. Which, coincidentally, is about as much as the SGA manages to accomplish every year.

The one commonly known accomplishment this year would be the reduced prices for textbooks. Let us examine. First, I am giving a lot of credit here because I have no idea if it even passed. All I saw were a few dozen signs asking me if I would support it. Now, assuming that it did go through, which is generous, how long did it take? I ask SGA members here. How long? It should have taken an hour. I understand that there will always be some bureaucracy to go through, so I'll go so far as to give them a week. Anything longer is unacceptable.

This is not an issue with sides. This is a chance for the College to help us; to, and it's never done this before, so get ready to be surprised, save us money. There is no one to sue you over this one. Textbook prices are open and shut to everybody on campus. If teachers, who are the ones I understand to be opposed to the measure, are unable to see the value of such a proposal, then why not simply take the money we would have saved this semester from their salaries? I'm sure they would quickly discover why it is such a popular idea.

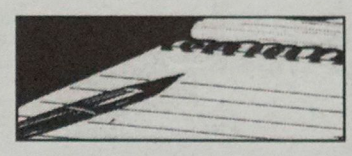
As it exists now, the SGA is a distraction. It makes the students think they can accomplish things. It makes the administration think they are listening to us. And it decorates the resumes of the people who will join our national government and make no impact there either. It is time for a change.

The Middlebury SGA Election Committee has rejected my request to be considered as a candidate for the SGA presidency because I missed deadlines. Does change have a deadline? Does doing what's right have a deadline? Does listening to what the student body is saying have a deadline? Then why not let me run?

My name is David Wrangham, and sponsored by the Middlebury Student Freedom Association (MSFA) I am running a pirate campaign to be your president. I seek to dismantle the current SGA and declare its constitution void. All current office holders would, of course, be expected to step down. Following this I seek the establishment of a new tribunal, supported by a residence hall congress to lead Middlebury. Democracy seeks to curb power abuse; the SGA has no power to abuse. Democracy merely serves to slow government down to impotency. Indeed the only time the SGA really does act — during impeachment proceedings — it forms a tribunal of its own to make the decision.

I challenge you, Middlebury. Is this the best we can do? Are we going to sit by and pretend that anyone is really listening? Pretend that the SGA is our voice? Does this campus refuse to act, when action is so clearly needed? Middlebury tells us that the SGA is the students' voice to the administration. Let us pick our own voice. Let us choose how we speak. And let us build something better.

DAVID WRANGHAM '08.5
AN UNDECLARED MAJOR
FROM WESTON, MASS.



NOTES
FROM THE DESK

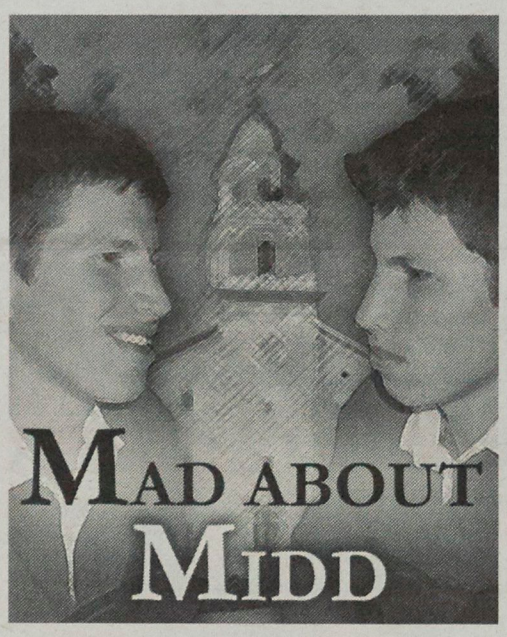
It's that time of year again – room draw. Now is the time when, in the words of one commons representative (no kidding), students must "pick which of their friends they like best" and use their lucky rank-in-commons numbers to save the less fortunate from living next to the boiler room. Housing is such a sensitive subject that I'd say it ranks second only to grades as the most awkward college-related conversation topic (we'll count drunken hookups as "hilarious").

Room draw is so stressful because several of the commons seem to have been hiding behind the proverbial door when the good dorms were handed out (namely Cook, Brainerd and Wonnacott). While financial constraints obviously exist, the simple fact is that the worst housing in some commons is better than the best housing in others.

Is it a bit whiny for students at one of the nation's most elite colleges to complain about their dorms? Of course. It's true that even the unluckiest Battell first-year living next to the bathroom has it better than much of the third world. There is, however, something to be said for looking at housing from the standpoint of equality. Given that Middlebury bases its commitment to a tremendous variety of causes on ethics, turning that same moral attention inward on one of the student body's biggest concerns might speak well of the school.

Current failings in the housing system aren't for a lack of good ideas. Back in October, the Strategic Planning Committee said it was looking at making senior room draw independent of the five commons. That's not a bad idea, although it might put some unlucky Atwater and Ross students in the odd position of having their worst housing senior year. Another solution seems a bit more reasonable: take portions of choice senior dorms (say, Atwater Halls A and B) and allot them to Cook or Brainerd. That way, while seniors in less fortunate commons can have an equal shot at good housing, the fall won't be too hard for those accustomed to living in style.

— DEREK SCHLICKEISEN
FEATURES EDITOR



Dolci Dinner: Priceless

By Dave Barker
OPINION COLUMNIST

Dear Parents,

I wanted to set your jaws back in their upright positions after they no doubt plunged upon reading President of the College Ronald D. Liebowitz's letter concerning the 5.25 percent tuition hike for the coming year. I am sure you did some quick math over the many ways you could spend $44,320 if your kids had decided to go to their in-state public school, where tuition averages $5,491. How about 55 round-trip plane tickets to Maui or a field box seat at Fenway for close to six seasons? If you're feeling charitable, you could cover the GDP per-capita income for 44.32 residents of Mali.

Let me allay your worries about cutting the check. You probably hear about the academic benefits of $44k from your stressed child during finals. Here's a less-academic, but still educational reason for signing "twenty-two thousand three hundred…" twice next year: the Dolci Student-Run Restaurant.

That's right your son or daughter might learn to chop an onion or shred carrots using a mandolin while preparing a four-course gourmet meal for 88 during his or her time at Middlebury. Students can elect to cook, wash dishes or wait tables at Dolci. They can also take the less taxing route of getting "free" tickets and enjoy a meal with friends. Dolci means "dessert" in Italian, but each of the four courses satisfy just as much as the last one does.

Last Friday, the four courses came paired with three glasses of red wine and a glass of champagne, making the meal even classier. Don't get the wrong idea about the alcohol: student head-chefs Scott Kleiman and Meg Guffin, both '06, loaded the tables with tasting sheets and wine descriptions, forcing students to sip attentively. "We wanted to initiate a process of students thinking about wine and food together," said Kleiman, who along with Guffin, took a course during J-Term on food and wine preparation.

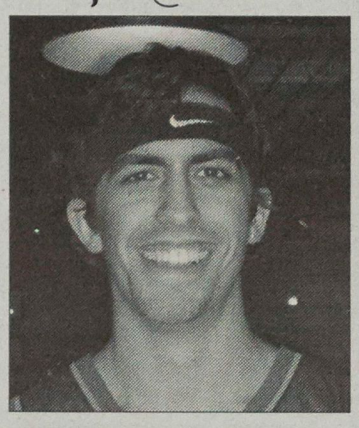
I entered Redfield Proctor dining room a foodophile and left an oenophile. Determined, I tried to make out the aromas of strawberries and blackberries of the Talomas Syrah & Cabernet Sauvignon or the subtle licorice flavor accompanied by a "bit of heat" that characterized the Domaine Drouhin Pinot Noir.

Reading material also accompanied the food. Three local cheeses served during round one came with descriptions of their characteristics. Prior to last Friday, I would have thought Tarentaise was a type of tonsillitis instead of an aged alpine raw milk organic cheese from grass-fed cows.

You would expect to find the three courses that followed at a restaurant where reservations are required a few years in advance. A braised lamb shank came with herbed gnocchi and sautéed greens. The lamb almost slid off the bone before it landed in my mouth. Thankfully, the waiter brought a mescaline, chévre, pear, and walnut salad after as a breather before dessert. When the molten-chocolate cake arrived centered in a pool of chipotle-raspberry sauce, I was on the verge of tears, as if I had just witnessed a perfect game in the playoffs.

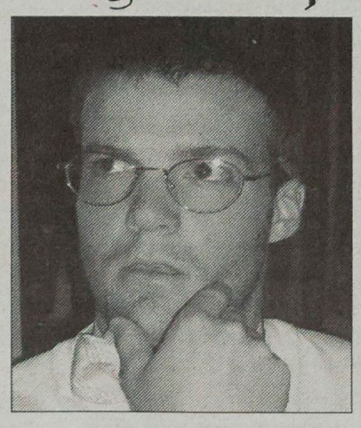
I could write a year's worth of columns on the many perfect "games" that happen at Middlebury during the course of a year. You could get the calculator out and see if they merit the bill. Save yourself the time and take my word: the comprehensive fee is worth the sacrifices you've made for your son or daugther, even if retirement comes at 85.

The Middlebury Campus online poll



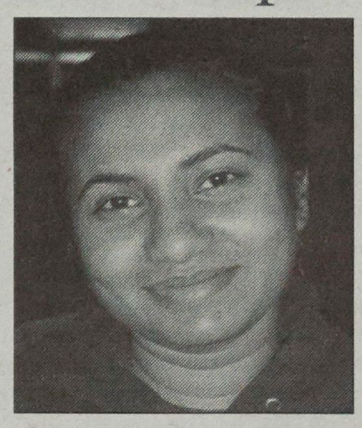
"IT WAS MY FIRST CHOICE. I JUST DID ONE APP, EARLY DECISION"

—MATT SESNO '06



"IT WAS MY SAFETY SCHOOL..."

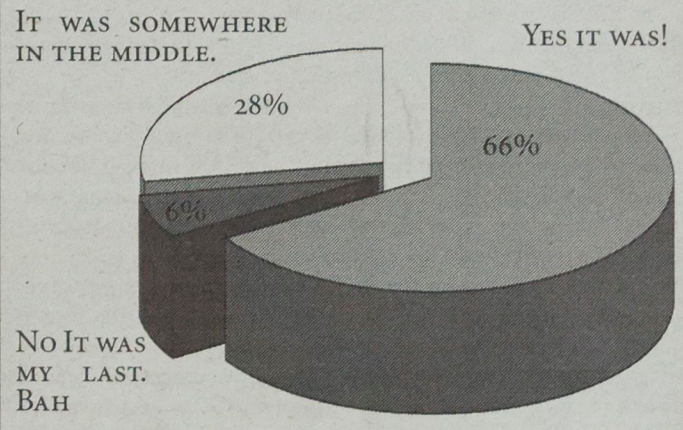
—ALLEN BOURDON '08.5



"IT WASN'T, I WAS JUST LOOKING FOR A LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE EXPERIENCE."

—SUMAYA HUGUE '06

WAS MIDDLEBURY YOUR TOP CHOICE WHEN YOU APPLIED TO COLLEGE?



Results based on 51 responses collected between April 8 and April 13 at www.middleburycampus.com

NEXT WEEK'S POLL QUESTION: HAVE YOU EVER USED THE COLLEGE NETWORK FOR ILLEGAL DOWNLOADING?

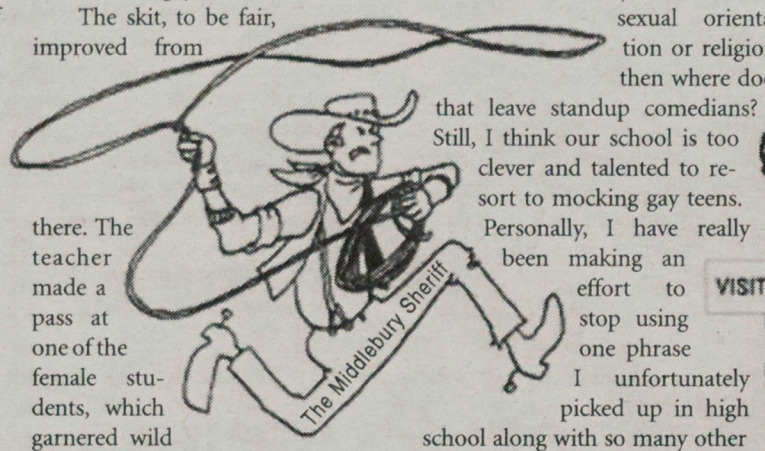
Pulling in some prospies

I was walking into The Grille when I saw crowds pouring into McCullough Social Space. A whole entertainment-fest was being given for prospective students. Apparently, Monday was the first of two preview days, a chance for admitted students to come and decide if they want to go to Middlebury.

The College certainly busted out its most talented performers, and who can blame them? We naturally want the visiting kids to believe that everyone, at Middlebury plays a sport, pulls A's and still finds time to be in an a capella group (and in truth, most people here are like this). Senior Ellen Wohlberg came out and told some jokes. You know, warm up the crowd, get the prospies to pull their fingernails out of their mouths and laugh a little. Then out came the Mamajamas, to the delight of screaming girls all over the balcony. After this our swing dance club went on. Sure, the dancing was great, but I was simply impressed that this club even existed. Stuck in the Middle (SIM) went up, entertaining as always. Finally, the moment that inspired this article arrived.

The Brothel was introduced as "a sketch comedy group that's just like Saturday Night Live." I had thought that Otter Nonsense stood alone in the Middlebury comedy scene, so I was excited to see what this new group had to offer. Their first skit was set in an AP English class, which I thought was a pretty clever way to cater to the audience of mostly high school kids.

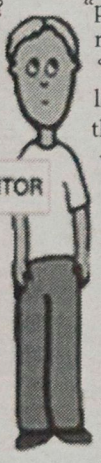
However, the "teacher" soon asked one of the "students" to read a poem. The boy explained nervously that his poem was entitled, "Confused." He read aloud: "I think I might be gay. At prom, Chelsea kissed me, and it was gross! I just wanted to look at Jerry..." After this, the actor awkwardly patted the other male student on the shoulder and sat down. I laughed for a moment, because it was clear that we were supposed to. Then my friend sitting next to me whispered, "That kind of seemed more mean than funny." I thought about what she said, and realized yeah, I was pretty offended. Was the idea for us to laugh at the gay kid? I turned around, and behind me, the six or seven other first-years I had been sitting with all looked horrified. One of them, a Feb guy, looked at me and said, "I'm really offended, and I'm not even gay." I felt the same.



The skit, to be fair, improved from there. The teacher made a pass at one of the female students, which garnered wild laughter from the crowd. Perhaps they had regained their fans. The next skit was okay too. But I found myself still upset. It was that first skit; the more I thought about it, the more I saw it as being in poor taste. I mean, if there are high school boys coping with the possibility that they might be gay, isn't that exactly how they would feel — confused?

I know a couple of guys in The Brothel, and they are funny, nice kids. They can do far better, I'm confident of that. My point here is not to give the group a bad review, but to suggest some advice that really goes for any performers here. Think about what message you want to send to your audience. Especially when performing in a venue that has the goal of luring admitted students to enroll at Middlebury.

I know that the issue of being too "politically correct" is a hot topic here right now. In fact, I myself greatly resent the cautious, overly-PC culture we find in much of America today. I hate people who are too PC. I mean, if we can't joke about race, sexual orientation or religion, then where does that leave standup comedians? Still, I think our school is too clever and talented to resort to mocking gay teens. Personally, I have really been making an effort to stop using one phrase I unfortunately picked up in high school along with so many other kids: "That's so gay." Let's all make an effort to be more appropriate in our humor, at least in public. Am I wrong?



DANIEL ROBERTS '09
AN ENGLISH MAJOR
FROM NEWTON, MASS.

Uncomfortable? Well, good

We have never been more appalled by the cliché backlash from people who rarely, if ever, attend any events on campus that are geared towards activism. I am sorry to the people who wrote in response to the board and were dismayed at having to be forced to look at "racial and sexual epithets three times a day as they walk into the dining hall."

What's the goal, you ask? The goal is to raise awareness surrounding issues of diversity in the world and on campus. If you are feeling forced into having to look at these words, imagine being someone who is forced to listen to them everyday. Imagine walking down your block, or around campus, and being called a "nigger" or a "slut" or a "faggot" or a "bitch." Imagine that. We ask you, Middlebury College community, to open your minds. For once, let a group of people act in a positive way to address derogatory uses of speech. We are a nation that is corrupt. We are a nation that is premised on genocide, rape and racism.

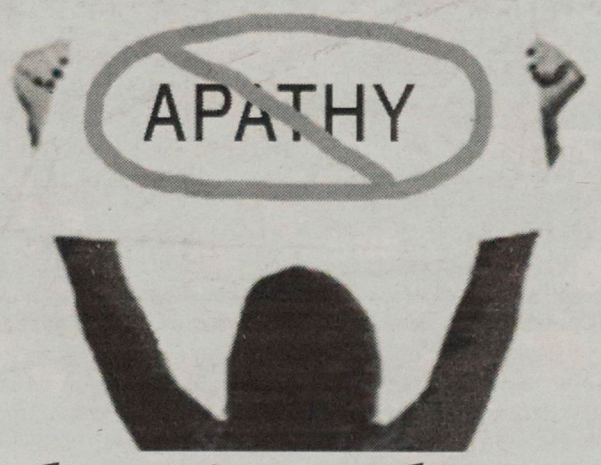
Look at our past and then our present. Slaves were freed — 150 years ago. Women were given the right to vote — 85 years ago. The sexual revolution took place — 35 years ago. So, where are we now? Is all of this just a distant past? Can we actually believe that we have overcome all of this? We would say: "NO!" Look at the bigger scheme of our history. Assess our past. Assess the present and look at where we are today in terms of human rights. Change does not happen when we are comfortable. We can never move forward if we do not know where we stand now. If you are content with the status quo, it means that you have failed to care about others. We are sickened by the apathetic nature of people's reactions to positive events on campus. Honestly, everyone does not know that the words written on the boards are not tolerable because they are used every single day against some human being, and this is the problem we are addressing.

What is the point, you ask? The point is to be proactive in whatever community in which you find yourself. Language is the foundation of human existence and interaction, and yet it has been one of the most problematic foundations of our existence. Thus, we must address issues of how language is used. We live on a serene little campus but at the same time we have to recognize that because we are a microcosm of the rest of the world, we should be able to protest events that place hierarchies based upon racial and sexual epithets. It was also mentioned that tour guides must walk past these signs with their groups of prospective students.

Do we want these signs to be the focus of their visits, you ask? Yes. We do. The reason we do is because we want people to realize that even though we are seemingly detached from reality, we mean to say that we live in a fairly edenic setting; we realize that our actions affect the rest of the world, including the town of Middlebury. We are at Middlebury, at least the two of us are, to work towards a common goal: raising global consciousness. If people are disturbed, we are glad. What is wrong with making people feel uncomfortable? Why do you want to live in a perfect world when we don't have one...clearly!? We respect the critiques written in the paper, and we are not ignorant of the fact that this protest will not eradicate racism or sexism or homophobia. The point was to raise consciousness, get people speaking about real issues and create solidarity against various forms of discrimination. It is obvious that not all the degrading words used around the world could be put on a board...the point was to do what we could. If you were disturbed, then we don't apologize... that was the point. And we challenge you: why not join the good fight? We are two activists on campus that are graduating in May knowing that we have done what we could to improve issues surrounding sexism, racism, classism, homophobia and other social injustices that pervade society.

Those privileged few who run our world and perpetuate human rights violations are our devil's advocates. So, instead of playing devil's advocate, why not become allies with those who do amazing work? We are certain that every individual here is a leader and has the potential to enact positive change on this campus and in the world. Thank you to our allies and to those activists who have risked everything for something; your efforts have certainly not gone unnoticed and are greatly felt and appreciated. Now, for everyone else, what are you waiting for?

LAUREN CURATOLO '06
WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES MAJOR
FROM BAYSIDE, N.Y.
ASSIA ELGOUACEM '06
A PHILOSOPHY AND MATH DOUBLE MAJOR
FROM SUNNYSIDE, N.Y.



What is political?

What is the problem with being politically vocal? In the last couple years I have heard of individuals, academic institutions and non-profits being condemned for their adoption of "political issues." There are a huge number of groups attempting to censor groups on these "political issues" ranging from religion, to the "liberal media," "liberal professors," and political correctness. I have heard these same groups then claim when questioned that they can't be involved in activities with "political agendas," because of these exact efforts to censure their opinions. Recently, I was told that by promoting awareness about the effects of climate change, I was apparently looking to spread political ideology and possibly take someone's first born child. But is that wrong? Maybe the first-born child part, but really. What does it mean to be political? What does it mean when it becomes wrong to voice your opinion?

Does being political involve raising controversial issues? Is there maybe something in the democratic process about discussing differences? And what about that whole citizen participation thing? Protests? Boycotts? You shouldn't protest, boycott or go against the authorities? That is unpatriotic, undemocratic. That is *anti*-political... isn't it? NO. That is *political*! Dispute and dialogue is what our country was founded upon. And it is time that people stood up and represented their values in words and actions.

Several weeks ago I laughed at an article in *The Middlebury Campus* detailing how uninspiring the "activist community" at Middlebury College is [Apathy or Activism?: Inside Midd Politics, March 30]. It detailed how Middlebury students are apathetic and generally uninvolved. But I'll share a little secret with you now, don't tell anyone, the activist community on campus doesn't hide out under the banners of College Democrats and College Republicans. Do you know why? Because the activists on campus realize that political engagement is a little more than just the name of a political party and voting in national elections every two to four years. The activists are planning symposiums on women's rights and Afghanistan. The activists are meeting with the trustees to discuss the College's investments. The activists on this campus are biking 40 miles in the rain in support of reducing our oil dependency. The activists on campus are engaging our community because they believe, although some people would claim it is a well kept secret, and others may even want to keep it that way, that a healthy community is a politically engaged community. They believe that politics is not about George Bush or John Kerry, but about dialogue, confrontation and making good, well-founded and debated decisions.

Do you want to know something else about activists and organizers? Activists abhor the word "apathy." Do you know why? Because it means they are bad activists, that they have failed to educate others and inspire the masses to take action. However, while activists are an important part of our society, shouldn't be solely their responsibility to inspire people in a republic.

In a democracy, citizens participate on their own. In a democracy, individuals voice their thoughts. In a democracy citizens stand up for their values. And in a democracy dialogue is politics.

Are you political? Do you take action when you are outraged? Do you help to shape your own community when you see something you want changed, when you complain about it? Because if you do not, your rights, your precious democratic rights, will be taken away from you. It is happening on a national level. It is even happening right here at Middlebury. From wire-tapping to lockdown, our uninvolved community is failing to act.

When we cease to be an informed citizenry, when we no longer participate in our community, then democracy has failed, community has died and our freedoms will continue to disappear. So the next time you hear the word apathy directed your way, think about what it really means. Think about what you don't know. Think about why you are not acting and who is benefiting from your inaction. And then stand up and do something about it. Talk to your friends. Ask questions. Organize a campaign.

Don't be afraid to be outraged; you ought to be. We're on lockdown now, in case you have forgotten, and it's not because we have a strong, friendly community. Friendship and familiarity fight both fear and crime better than any lockdown or terrorist color-code ever will. Every person has the power to speak out, to influence our community. Political engagement and participation are the keys to dialogue and a healthy community. And I'll tell you one last secret, a little something that those in with the power realize and you may not: Anything is legal if you make it legal, and the power truly rests in the people. But only if they know it does.

AUSTEN LEVIHN-COON '07
AN INDEPENDENT SCHOLAR
FROM AUSTIN, TEXAS

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Library and Information Services is entering the 5th year of offering its Graduate Intern Program. The program seeks to identify graduating seniors with an interest in library or technology services who would like to return to Middlebury as a full-time staff member. The positions are 10-month appointments with full-time benefits. In the past we have had students work in the following areas: web programming, network security and administration, application development, digital media services, and digitization to name a few.

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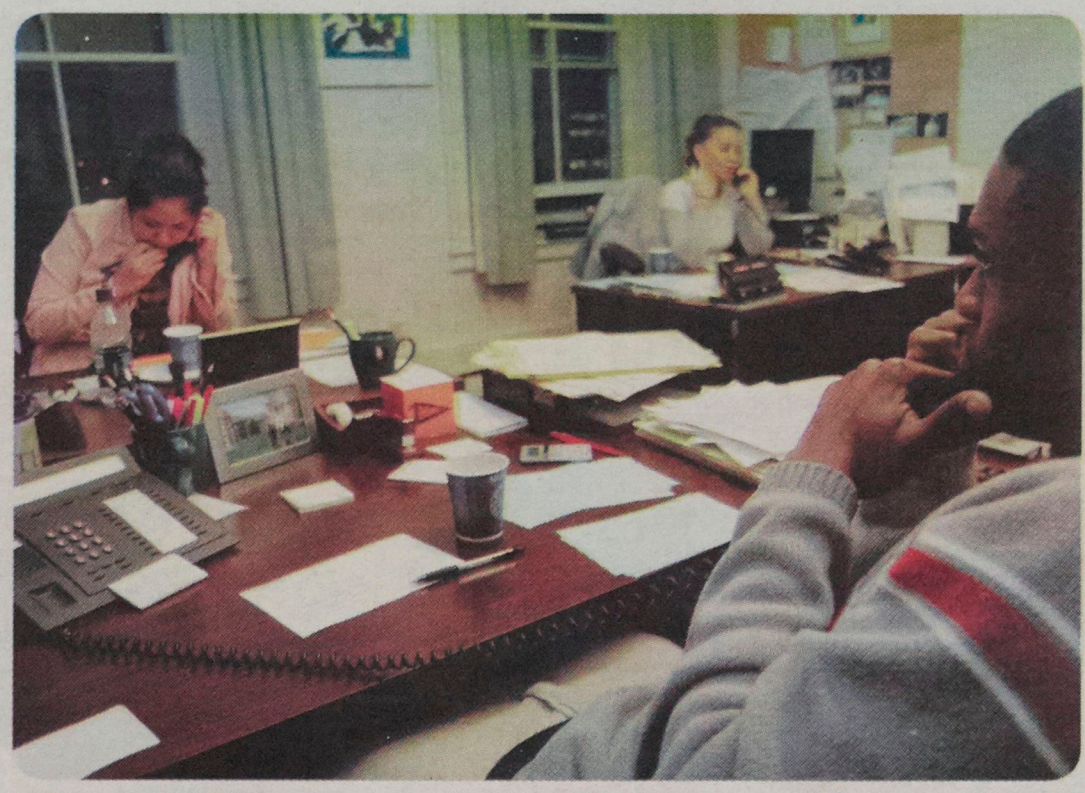
Class of 2010: Midd's Future

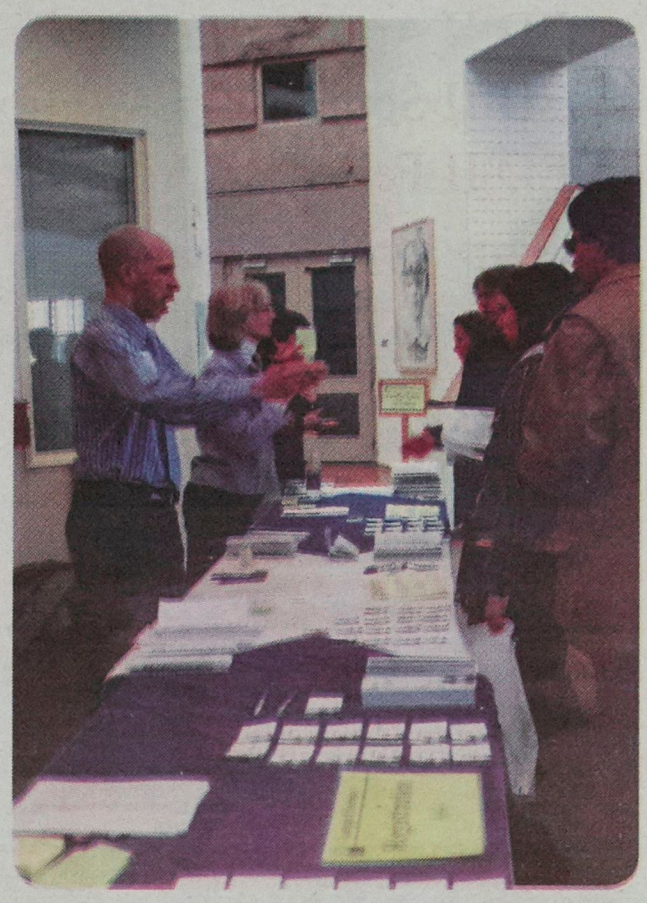
On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights from eight to 11 p.m. in the Admissions Office, several Middlebury students gave up their evenings to congratulate admitted students from underrepresented states and groups in a special phone-a-thon. They offered advice and information to students with doubts about the College.

—Jason F. Siegel
Focus Editor



Total Applicants: 6,204
Target September Class Size: 560
Target February Class Size: 95
Intended Major: Int'l Studies
2nd Choice: English
3rd Choice: Biology
Admitees with 800 SATs: 478
School or class presidents: 136
School newspaper editors: 129

States: 50
Texans: 35
Montanans: 5
Californians: 124
North Dakotans: 2
Nations: 64
Non-New England: 76 percent

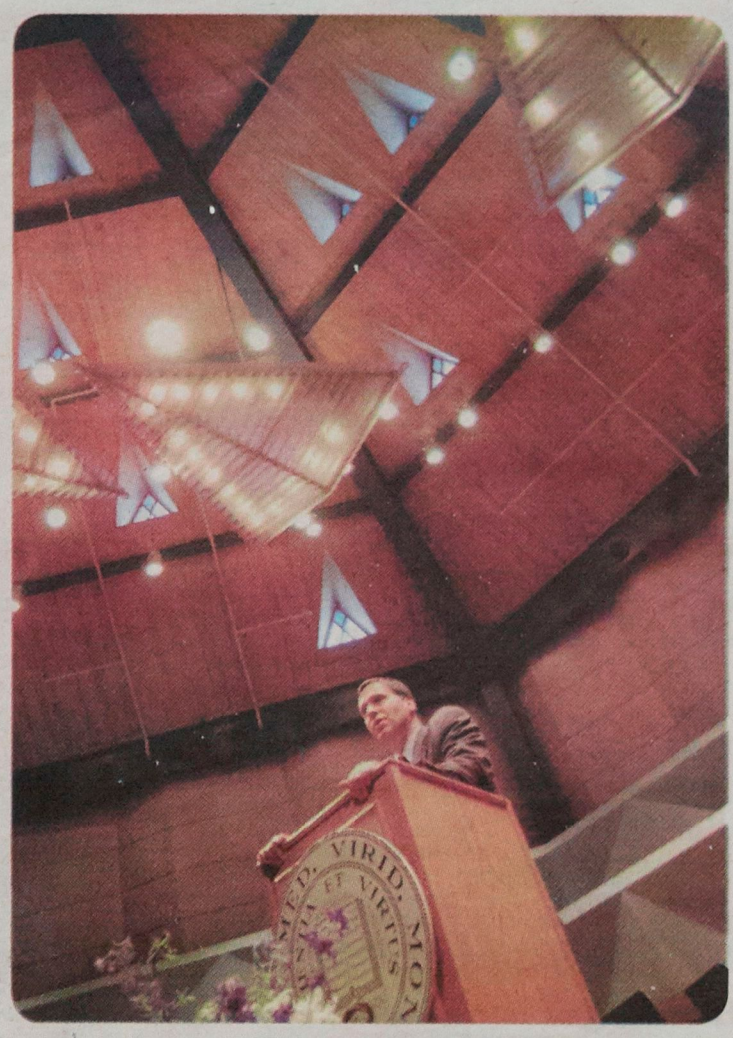


The Admissions Office sponsored the first of its two Preview Days for students admitted to the classes of 2010 and 2010.5. Following registration in the Center for the Arts featuring a speech by Dean of Admissions Robert Clagett, families went on campus tours specially tailored to admitted students, visited panels on issues facing Febs and went to a special lunch in Chip Kenyon '85 Arena. There they also had the chance to survey clubs such as the Open Queer Alliance, the Rugby Team and Flying Fists Juggling Brigade, pictured below.

— photos by Kimberly Bowker, Marie Horbar and Vlad Lodoaba

Editors in Chief: 106
Oboe Players: 14
Rodeo Queens: 1
Curlers: 1
Mushers: 1
Sets of Twins: 5
World Champ Log Rollers: 1

After three hours of tours, classroom visits and other meetings, dozens of prospective students and their parents gathered in the Center for the Arts Concert Hall for the traditional welcoming speech by President of the College Ronald D. Liebowitz. Liebowitz stressed the importance of the students' college choice and highlighted what makes Middlebury unique. Among Middlebury's strong points on which he focused were the importance of communications within the commons and the College's academic strengths.

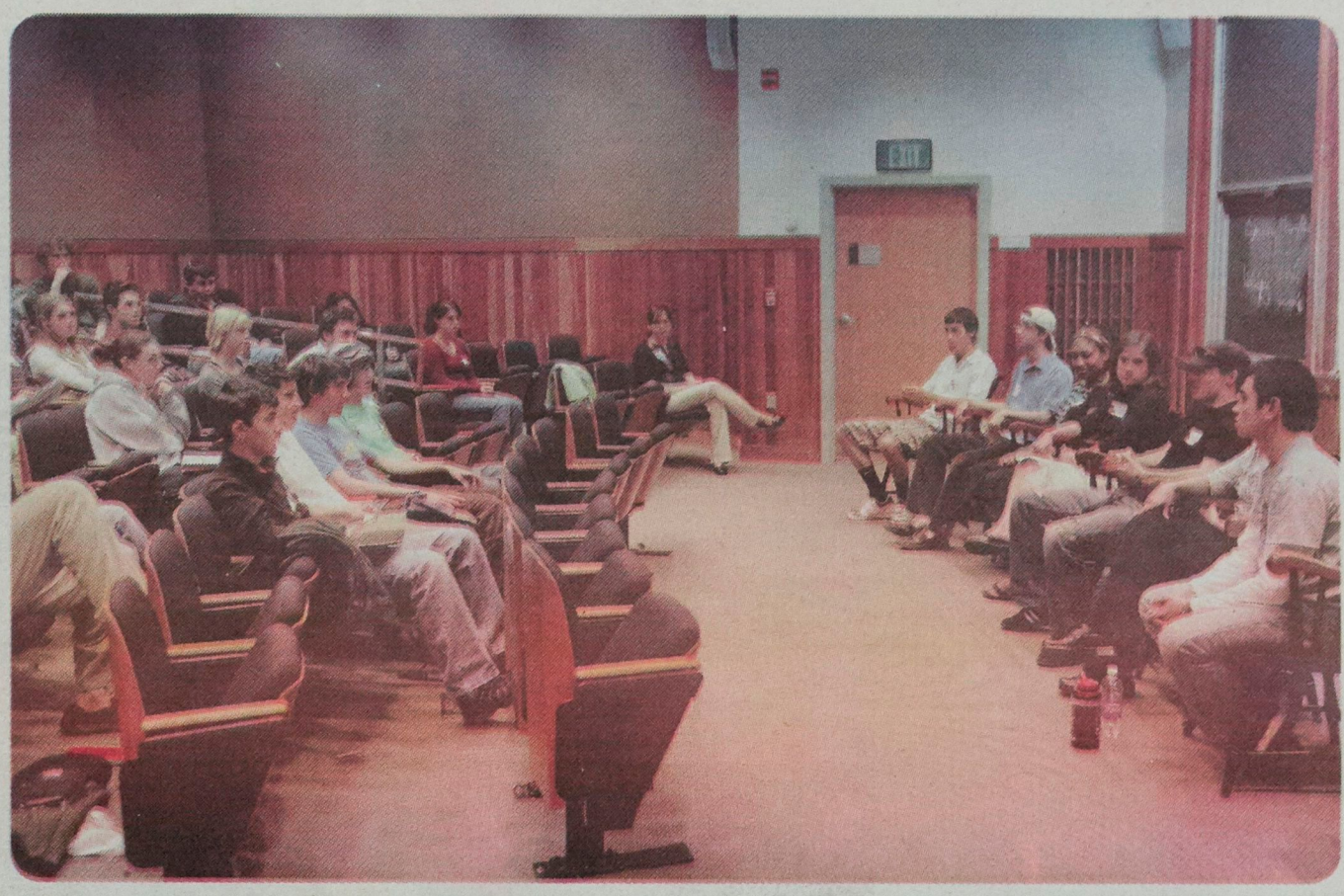


Acceptance Rates: Key Figures for 2006

Early Decision I Applicants: 642
ED I September Admits: 170
ED I February Admits: 25
Admitted: 30.3 percent
ED II Applicants: 248
ED II September Admits: 51
ED II February Admits: 8
Admitted: 23.8 percent
Total Admitted ED: 28.5 percent

Regular Decision Applicants: 5,314
RD September Admits: 1,122
RD February Admits: 134
Admitted: 23.6 percent
Target Yield Rate - RD Sept.: 37 .6 percent
Target Yield Rate - RD Feb.: 46.2 percent
percent Admitted Overall: 24.5 percent
Target Yield Rate - Sept.: 41.7 percent
Target Yield Rate - Feb.: 56.9 percent
Target Yield Rate - Overall: 43.4 percent

While their parents attended a special meeting discussing the next four years, the prospective students got a chance to ask questions to a variety of students from diverse backgrounds frank and direct questions about their college experiences. The meeting took place in McCardell Bicentennial Hall and was one of the last events before the students headed home for the day. A second Preview Day is scheduled for this Monday, with many students being hosted overnight the prior Sunday.



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Moqa sex talk turns heads, turns on

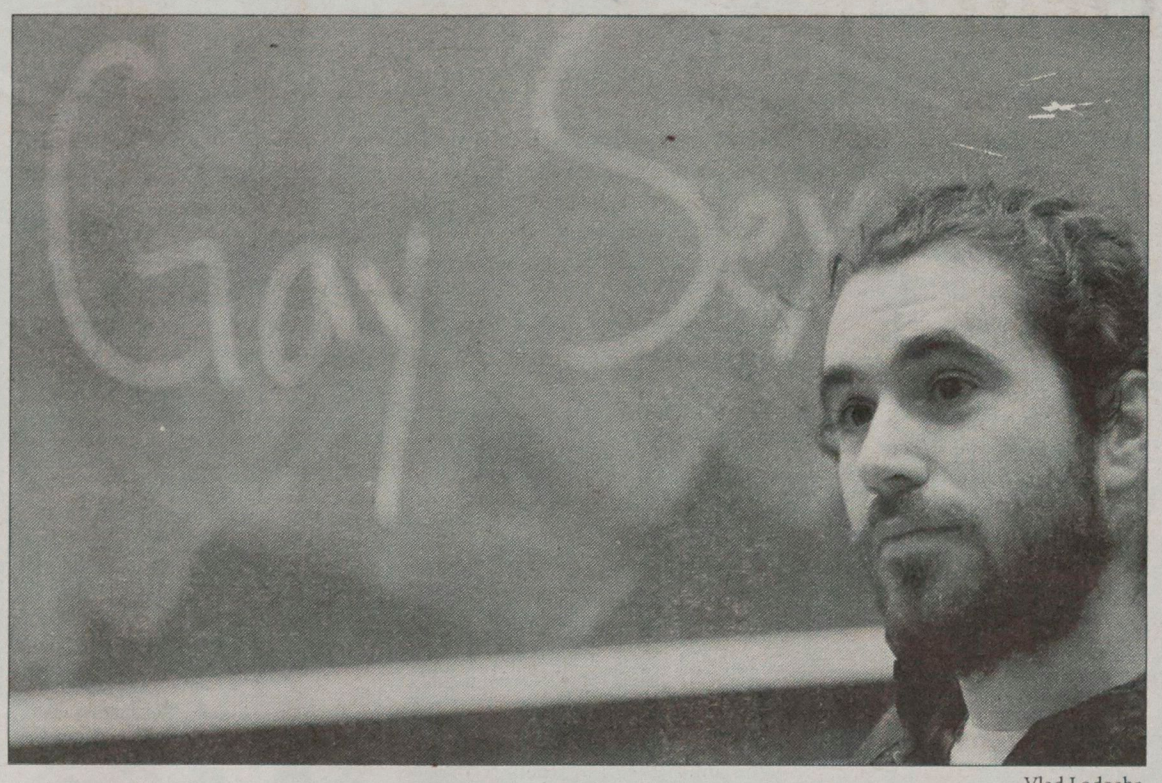
By Dina Magaril
Features Editor

Though GAYpril festivities at Middlebury may have started off on shaky ground — members of the community allegedly tore down and vandalized posters last week — the events hosted thus far by members of moqa have been resoundingly successful. Last Thursday's Gay Sex Panel Discussion — which, according to moqa's adverstising campaign, would reveal "the truth about lesbian sex" — was well-attended and well-received. The panel was held in John M. McCardell, Jr., Bicentennial Hall and was moderated by Colin Penley '06.

Blank cards were given to those students in attendence so they could write down questions about gay sex. These were fielded by the panel, which was organized by moqa and comprised of Wonnaccott CRA Marshall Traverse, Jillian Weiser '06, first-year Nick Ballen and Tamara Vatnick '07.

The panel, officially entitled "Straight Talk About Gay Sex," defined its mission as striving to answer any questions both gay and straight students might have about sex in order to familiarize people with the subject. "Straight people often don't know what gay sex is really like," said Weiser, "and misunderstanding often breeds fear and prejudice." Vatnick introduced the panel, talking about the often inaccurate and limited portrayal of gay sex in the mainstream media and even in our current school system health classes. "There is a lot of mystery and ignorance surrounding [gay sex]. People are afraid of what they don't know, so we thought that some of people's homophobia might stem from not knowing how gay sex works," said Vatnick.

In order to create a comfortable atmosphere among students who might not be used to talking candidly about sex, Weiser asked the attendees to repeat after her as she listed words commonly associated with sex. Weiser's icebreaker effectively relieved any tension in the room and opened up the forum to an evening filled with honest answers, many of which were inspired by the personal experiences of panel members. Though most of the panel agreed that they felt comfortable answering any of the questions asked, they were quick to note that they did not consider themselves "gay sex experts."



Vlad Lodoaba

Colin Penley '06 moderated the moqa sponsored panel entitled "Straight Talk About Gay Sex" last Thursday.

"It was sometimes difficult to answer questions, because just as one straight person cannot speak for all straight people in terms of their sexual practices, we did not want to make broad generalizations like 'this is how gay people have sex,' because there are many different opinions and preferences," said Vatnick.

Question topics included definitions of sex, what different types of sex feel like, sex toys and where to buy them, and debunking common misconceptions about gay sex. Panelists were quick to respond to questions about sex, and equally quick to emphasize the importance of practicing safe sex. "[At] a time when having sex can mean contracting HIV and other scary STDs, it's really important to be able to talk about it," said Vatnick. As part of promoting safe sex during GAYpril, Midd 8 collaborated with health center services to provide free and confidential non-needle HIV testing at the Parton Health Center.

In the midst of the crowded auditorium, many faces seemed all too familiar. Panel members expressed regret that more students who were not already openly gay or friends of the moqa community did not attend the discussion.

"I wish that more people who were not either openly gay or very liberal had attended — that is, I wish that people who might be more conservative would be willing to take a chance and hear what we have to say," said Vatnick.

Traverse voiced a similar concern as he commented on the overwhelming majority of female students and lack of males attending the panel. "I'm not sure why gay or straight male students passed up a great opportunity to learn about prostate-induced ejaculations, I thought they would be lined up around Bi-Hall to get that information," joked Traverse.

However, the real issue — a general lack of open forums dealing with sex-related topics — is not as light of a subject for Middlebury students.

"I think speaking so bluntly about gay sex was a wonderfully bold act by moqa, considering how closeted this campus is when it comes to talking openly about any type of sexuality," said Chrissy Lau '06, a student who attended the panel.

When asked whether there are enough outlets for gay students at Middlebury, the panelists expressed a variety of sentiments. Weiser stated, "moqa does a great job for what it is, [but] it's mostly run and attended by pretty out students, and we're leaving out a whole group of student who are questioning or closeted or in the process of coming out. It's something we're still discussing and haven't found any way to address."

Traverse commented on the focus of moqa and expressed hope that a group will be established on campus geared toward gay interests and socializing — not just toward activism. "There are a significant amount of queer students at Middlebury, but most do not participate in moqa because they are not looking for a gay activism setting," Traverse observed. "The activism needs to be left in the hands of people who are passionate about it."

Gaypril events will be taking place throughout the month of April. Yesterday's "Day of Silence" commemorated the silencing of the gay community by asking participants to take a vow of silence for the day. Students and faculty are encouraged to participate in all or any of the Gaypril events, and can start by wearing particular colors on assigned days — Monday, April 17 is "red" day. Students can find the rest of the color week schedules on posters around campus. The moqa Lavender Drag ball is another traditionally well-attended and successful event, coming up on the April 22.

That's amore!

Vlad Lodoaba

Digging into free pizza, students flocked to McCardell Bicentennial Hall Sunday night to sample more than a half-dozen brands of pizza pies. The event was organized by the Middlebury College Activities Board, and pizzas were donated by Ramunto's, Green Peppers, Flatbeard, Neil & Otto's, Two Brothers and Middlebury's very own Grille. Tasters decided The Grille and Two Brothers Tavern had the winning recipes.

Drill shows emergency readiness

By Rachel Dunlap
Staff Writer

Last Thursday at precisely 5 p.m., I lay unconscious with a head laceration in the front seat of a fifteen-passenger van. Another victim was stuck in the driver's seat with a neck injury, while seven others yelped about various dilemmas from an old camper vehicle. Suddenly, the Middlebury Volunteer Ambulance Association, Brandon Rescue, the Middlebury Police and Fire Departments and the College's Department of Public Safety simultaneously swooped onto the scene.

"We've got an unconscious female, head lac, pulse 70, BP 150/70" an EMT worker called out, pinching my arm and playfully warning me to stop laughing. The drill had begun.

Each year, Porter Hospital is required to complete both an internal and an external emergency drill. Last week's rescue extravaganza, which has been in planning stages since last October, served as the latter. The exercise, developed by the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), also served to coordinate multiple local emergency rescue teams, which often lend support to areas outside of their immediate jurisdiction. "Rutland, Addison and Brandon try to cover one another in terms of emergency response," said the College's Environmental Health and Safety Coordinator Ed Sullivan.

Thursday's event involved approximately thirty individuals ranging from EMTs, to members of the Fire and Police Departments and representatives from the Department of Health and the LEPC. At Porter Hospital, an additional half-dozen physicians and twice as many nurses tended to the nine Middlebury students rushed through the ER doors.

After several slight problems with communication, the rescue team moved along smoothly, with all victims loaded into the four ambulances within 47 minutes. "It would have taken longer had it been real life, but our pace really impressed me," reported Sullivan. "I was impressed by how well everyone worked together. That was key." Sullivan argued that the issues with differing communication device frequencies were expected and that their coordination was a chief aim of the event.

Once labeled "Code Red," I was supported, neck-braced, lifted out of the van by what felt like many hands (at this point I was still "unconscious"), back-boarded and sent off in a silent ambulance (no need to alarm the community, who didn't receive our campus-wide email about the event). Once at Porter, I was looked after by a physician as well as several friendly nurses who tempted me to experience brief lapses of consciousness before I suddenly and dramatically fell under once more. After a disappointing down-grade to Code Yellow, my lipstick and chocolate syrup head wound was bandaged, my vitals were recorded, my reflexes were tested repeatedly and various sensors were stuck to my chest. Throughout the ordeal, the medical workers were incredibly calm and kind, leading me to feel slightly guilty when I consistently showed no signs of being able to feel my toes and continuously whined about my aching head.

With the drill completed, the victims jumped up from their gurneys in one surreal swoop and were treated to a pizza dinner with their "rescuers." Director of the Emergency Department Fred Kniffin and Emergency Management Planner from the Addison County Regional Planning Commission Tim Bouton both spoke, congratulating all involved on their cooperative accomplishment. Although the actual success of the experience will be determined by a future report, a debriefing and critiques from observers, morale appeared to be high by evening's end.

Sullivan emphasized in particular the importance of the students involved on both sides of the accident, explaining that student EMTs and firemen serve as a vital force in the community. He also stressed the value of the occasion and the important information it will provide for improvement. "You don't want a drill to happen perfectly," he said. "You always want to make it better."

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Welcome to Bobby's World

A New Column
By Bobby Joe Smith

Humankind since the dawn of excellence has glorified its heroes. We honor and envy those with superior strength, intelligence, courage, selflessness and perseverance, placing them upon a pedestal from which to imitate us and inspire our talents. Stories get cast into legend, and legend into myth. We honor David for throwing a rock at Goliath and celebrate Columbus' bad navigating.

But some of our greatest heroes continue their extraordinary feats outside the limelight, never getting the recognition they deserve. There exist at Middlebury College two such individuals. Rain, snow, or shine, these weekend warriors fend off hordes of starving students, armed with nothing but a metal spatula and a thin layer of armor (a.k.a. an apron). You thought Frodo Baggins and Samwise Gamgee had it tough.

Together, Alex Bailey and Colin Rause, seniors at the local Middlebury High School, form a duo the likes of which have never been seen inside a cafeteria. Since 2002, when they first started working at Middlebury, the two have honed their omelet-making skills like Jedi Knights, utilizing the force within for the powers of good. From sunrise to the waning hours of mid-day, Bailey and Rause entrench themselves inside their concrete bunker and satiate the onslaught of students zombified by the previous night's activities.

With the dexterity of Michelangelo, Bailey and Rause create their edible masterpieces over the heat of a black circular furnace that cackles and spits back at them. Inside the belly of the beast, fires blaze and white clouds of savory smelling smoke engulf our heroes, yet somehow they manage to keep their cool and form from scratch even our wildest requests. Want your eggs sunny side up, down, or buried underground? No problem! Want your eggs scrambled, whipped, or pureed? They got you covered! Want your omelet to have a smiley face constructed from bits of ham and shredded cheese? Coming right up! I personally request that my omelets be an exact replica of the battle at Gettysburg, and let me tell you, victory has never tasted so good!

But who are Bailey and Rause really? Bailey would have you believe that they are just some average "townies" with a job to do. Riiiigghhtt, and Jesus was just a carpenter! Outside the kitchen, Rause is a two-sport athlete for the high school, while Bailey plays golf from time to time and enjoys long walks on the beach (Battell Beach). And yes, ladies, they're both single! With graduation coming up and their lives at the local high school drawing steadily to a close, who knows what will become of two of the greatest unsung heroes ever to grace this campus? I personally would feel a lot safer knowing they had become brain surgeons. I would let them operate on me any day. Just get them an apron and a spatula and prepare for medical magic!

World Briefs

By Ian Schmertzler

Driving while dirty

Russia has initiated a spring cleaning effort of sorts, denying dirty cars entrance to Moscow and levying a 50 ruble (~$1.80) fine on cars whose license plates are unwashed. Cars are required to be washed at designated car-washing stations, and violators are liable for a 500 to 1000 rubles fine. Said traffic police spokesman Vyacheslav Trubin, "It helps restore cleanliness standards after the winter… and it helps safety because a lot of cars' windows are dirty, and license plates are hard to read." The fine and banned entrance will remain enforced until May 10.

—The Moscow Times, Moscow

Prodi wins election

Romano Prodi was declared the prime minister of Italy on Tuesday morning. Former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, who had altered the laws organizing parliament in an effort to strengthen his power, has refused to concede defeat. The margin of victory in both branches of government -—the senate and the lower chamber — was by only a few thousand votes. Berlusconi has been charged with corruption numerous times, resulting in a large slip in his popularity. Voter turnout was 83.6%, compared to 81.4% when Berlusconi was elected.

—New York Times:, Rome

Labor law revoked

Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin announced in a televised address Monday that France's government had revoked CPE, the contentious youth labor law signed into effect less than a week ago. The labor law, which would have allowed employers to terminate younger employees without cause during their first two years of work, sparked protests throughout France. Villepin called for immediate dialogue to try to find another solution to exceptionally high unemployment levels among the youth of France, particularly in those areas afflicted by serious poverty riots last year. Villepin later stated during an interview that he did not intend to run for president in 2007.

—Le Monde, Paris

Push for democracy

Despite three confirmed deaths and over 800 arrests as of Monday, pro-democracy protests in Nepal continued into the week without any signs of ceasing. Images shown by Western media outlets over the weekend included police shooting into crowds and beating protesters with batons, steel pipes and butts of rifles. In some situations, authorities resorted to throwing rocks and firing tear gas. Although the demonstrators remained peaceful for the most part, some protesters responded to police by hurling stones and bricks.

—New York Times:, Katmandu, Nepal

WINNERS & LOSERS

What's hot and what's not on campus and in pop culture? *The Campus* gives its weekly report.

GAYpril	May
Gay marraige, drag queens, pink triangle cookies and cowboy lovers? That's my idea of a good month. Move over, April showers.	Moqa, you missed the chance to make the best rhyme pun ever...
Fenway Park Lunch at Atwater	Fenway Park Fans
Troy should always hawk peanuts to students at lunch. Major points for creativity, Atwater — and this is coming from a Yankees fan.	If only you weren't sitting next to me at lunch... I'm surprised you didn't riot and start a food fight in Atwater.
May Garden	Mister Up's
It's the new Wednesday night hot spot. Don't tell Mr. Davidson, and get ready for scorpion bowls!	**I'll have a 1/2 lb. of thumbs and toes, a pint of Bud and an underage drinking citation, please.**

BY MATT KUNZWEILER

An article in the latest issue of *Rolling Stone* mentions how several universities and colleges around the country have disciplined or expelled students for incriminating Facebook profiles (i.e. ones which show photographic evidence of underage drinking). In one case, two students at Boston's Fisher College were expelled for co-creating a Facebook group which derided a campus security officer. And at a Christian university in Arkansas, a student was expelled because his Facebook profile divulged the fact that he was gay.

In this post-privacy age of wiretaps and hyperbolic fear-based vocabulary, it looks like some of America's post-secondary institutions are doing their part to contribute to the Orwellian dystopia. And it makes sense. Students often complain that colleges and universities — ivory towers of academia — are so far removed from the realities of the outside world that, upon graduation, students often experience severe difficulty in readjusting. The schools that have used Facebook to discipline students recognize that their campuses must be more representational of the real America — where, right now, Big Brother is hot.

Obviously Middlebury is lagging in this collegiate race towards perfect policing. What kind of bleeding-edge policing resources do we have? Only two: the new liquor inspector (that wily arbiter of beer-league justice) and Mac Gray (the evil laundry syndicate, with the slogan: "The Future is Gray").

Maybe Middlebury needs to get with the times and ride high on this new wave of totalitarianism. But because of the protest-prone student body at this college, there's no way the authorities here could ever use Facebook to purge the campus of all freaks and dissenters. However, if we order a preemptive strike, we can strategically rid the campus of all future students who would potentially have a problem with the College's eventual goal of totalitarianism.

It won't be difficult to bring the College up to speed: we encourage the admissions office to tap into the high school version of the Facebook and cross-reference applicants' formal profiles with their Facebook profiles, thus determining the sincerity/authenticity of their résumés and personal essays — which, traditionally, are vainglorious samples of absurdist fiction. Using Facebook's unique technology, within four years we can actually make Middlebury 100 percent freak-free. If an applicant's profile shows preference for the Rocky Horror Picture Show: she's out. Atlas Shrugged: he's in. Nirvana: out. John Mellencamp: in. Skateboarding: out. Tom Clancy: in. Aqua Teen: out. Father Knows Best: in.

And someone else will be in charge of looking through the applicants' Facebook photographs. That way we can thin out the kids who have visible tattoos, interesting hair or ironic facial expressions. But why stop there? Let's reject the ugly kids. If a student isn't beautiful enough to be in the Middlebury view book (that J. Crew catalogue), he or she is not beautiful enough to attend Middlebury. We get so many applicants, and we reject like 85 percent of them — let's just make sure the uglies are in that slice.

Within four years, everyone will play sports, drive Audis and abuse Adderall. Sure, WRMC will be defunct. And the ultimate frisbee team will no longer exist — but that's for the best: the superabundance of beautiful students can use the empty space on Battell Beach for sun-tanning their sculpted bodies.

This program will ensure a bright future for the College — just so long as nobody abuses the technology.

'Dialogues for Peace' launches

By Julia McKinnon
Staff Writer

Remember Afghanistan?! The organizers of last week's "Dialogues for Peace" symposium thought carefully about the title they gave the series of lectures, discussions and films. The question mark, Haseeb Humayoon '09 explained, inquires about the lack of press interest in Afghanistan recently. The exclamation point emphasizes how important it is that the United States continues to pay attention to Afghanistan.

The event's organizers were concerned that Afghanistan, overshadowed by continuing turmoil in Iraq, has all but disappeared from the news. So, in order to spark interest on campus, a number of students came together for a symposium that devoted attention to raising awareness of the current situation in Afghanistan and updating students and the public on that nation's progress. "While American attention is presently focused on conflict in Iraq, the task of reconstructing Afghanistan is of utmost importance," said Professor Allison Stanger, director of the Rohatyn Center for International Affairs "The symposium events reached a broad audience and in so doing put Afghanistan back on the community's radar screen."

Anton Altement '07, Beslan Visambiev '08, Haris Ghertos '08, Paval Svaton '08, Haseeb Humayoon '09 and Zohra Safi '09 provided the main student initiative in planning the lecture-discussion series. Humayoon and Safi are the only Afghan students on campus.

Courtesy

Students and faculty listened to Afghan speakers recount their experiences after the U.S. invasion.

A Week of Events

The symposium began last Sunday night with a screening of "Baran," a film by Academy Award nominee Majid Majidi that portrays the struggle of Afghan refugees working in Iran.

On Wednesday, Ashraf Haidari, first secretary of the Afghan Embassy in Washington, D.C. came to speak about the current state of Afghanistan. His talk, entitled "Rebuilding Afghanistan: Achievements, Challenges, and the Future," was positive in tone and stressed the importance of a continued American presence in the nation while it transitions to a democracy. The peace in Afghanistan, he noted, is still "fragile."

First-year Lissa Crane said she felt hopeful after hearing the diplomat speak. "Haidari talked about progress since the fall of the Taliban," said Crane, who attended most of the week's events. "He gave encouraging statistics. It was a more positive picture than I'd imagined."

Stanger agreed that there was a sense of hope emanating from the speakers, "The speakers who hailed from Afghanistan were impressive, reflecting most favorably upon the country's future prospects."

The next day, organizers showed the film "Taliban Country," a documentary that followed the U.S. Marines through remote areas of central Afghanistan. After the screening, Humayoon hosted a discussion about the U.S. presence in Afghanistan.

Moving Speeches

On Thursday evening, chairperson of the Afghan Red Crescent Society Fatima Gailani, Safi and Paula Nirschel talked about the emergence of women as a political force to an enthusiastic crowd. Many students said that this talk was the highlight of the week. "Gailani started her speech by explaining why she wore her burka," said Izzy Marshall '07. "She said that it was her choice, not an obligation, and this is why it was okay for her to wear it." She discussed the situation of women in Afghanistan and described what life was like prior to the U.S. invention. She discussed her extensive education, women in the government and the progressive nature of the country.

"People think of Afghan men with beards and turbans and women in burkas," said Safi. "But the speakers have different impressions." Safi also highlighted how much funding the United States has given to the Afghan development process, explaining that there are more than three hundred American-backed development projects in addition to government advising and aid from humanitarian agencies. Gailani had a strong message for the international aid community, Humayoon said. "She appealed to them, don't tell us what to do, ask us what we want. This is great insight for the world."

Immediately following Gailani, Nirschel got up to speak on her involvement with Afghanistan and women's education. Nirschel founded the Initiative to Educate Afghan Women (IEAW). "Hearing individual stories was very inspiring," said Pooja Shahani '09. "I realized that we have the ability to make our dreams come true if we have the perseverance."

IEAW brings Afghan women to various universities and colleges in the United States on scholarship. Safi's attendance at Middlebury is an example of this program in action. "I'm learning so much here. I'm changing in positive ways," she said. The IEAW program requires that she travel home each summer and that she return to help her country after she completes her education.

Wrapping Up

On the last day of events, John Sifton, a researcher for Human Rights Watch, gave a closing address entitled "A Future for Justice? Addressing Afghanistan's Legacy of Impunity." Sifton spoke as an expert on human rights issues in Afghanistan.

After Sifton's talk, Safi and Humayoon shared photos, videos, traditional sports (including "Buzkashi," or goat grabbing), music and stories about their homes. "It was a mix of their culture," said Visambiev. "It was beautiful."

Safi spoke about being a young girl in today's Afghanistan and Humayoon recounted living during the war and under the Taliban rule. He also commented on his youth involvement in the current reconstruction phase.

They need the support of the international community to improve conditions and to avoid more chaos. It's fragile right.
—Beslan Visambiev'08

Student reaction to the symposium was encouraging. "The people who came to the events were very engaged," said Crane. "They always had lots of questions."

Organizers were also pleased to see that every generation in the Middlebury community seemed to be represented. Indeed, their only slight disappointment was the feeble turnout of American students. "The goal of the symposium was to tell U.S. citizens about what the United States. is up to in Afghanistan," said Humayoon. "I was looking for how many [Americans] were in the audience."

The Symposium's Message

Organizers emphasized that the symposium was designed to showcase Afghanistan as a role model for U.S. involvement in the Middle East and Central Asia. During the symposium, discussions about Iraq inevitably arose. While it seemed in 2001 that Afghanis were glad to be liberated, questions regarding American motives have arisen as U.S. involvement in the Middle East has increased. "You never want a foreign army on your soil," explained Visambiev.

Overall sentiments, however, remain largely receptive to U.S. presence. "We can't fight the Taliban, warlords and Al Qaeda by ourselves," said Humayoon. "We need international presence."

The symposium seems to have achieved its aim of raising awareness on campus. Safi noted that a number of students she spoke with became so interested that they expressed the desire to travel to Afghanistan this summer. Svaton said is still receiving mail from people abroad thanking him for his efforts in holding the symposium. "A U.S. marine [in Afghanistan] heard about the program and e-mailed me to thank me," he said.

Following the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan, the press reported continuously on Afghanistan's potential to be another post-World War II Japan—a successful modern nation. Even as the press has moved its attention to Iraq, however, Afghanistan remains far from permanently stable.

The students wanted to convey Afghanistan's potential to move forward so long as public attention keeps America's commitment to reconstruction strong. "They need the support of the international community to improve conditions and to avoid more chaos," said Visambiev. "It's fragile right now."

These issues exemplify the reason for the sonorous punctuation in the symposium's title. "This is the last chance that we will get as a nation," said Humayoon. "The backing, enthusiasm and support are unprecedented."

Middlebury to host VH1's 'Best Week Ever' live

Event to feature alumna St. Claire '98

By Derek Schlickeisen
Features Editor

This Friday at 8 p.m., the Middlebury College Activities Board (MCAB) will sponsor a live broadcast of VH1's hit comedy show "Best Week Ever" in the Pepin Gymnasium. Among the four comedians slated to perform is Middlebury alumna Jessica St. Clair, who graduated in 1998.

Diehard fans of the program should recognize Friday's format: a big-screen television in Pepin will show short video clips of the week's happenings in popular culture while the four panelists comment. The show's segments include "The Sizzler," a review of celebrity gossip; "Five Good Reasons," a set of excuses to see the week's worst movie and "In Case You Missed it," a review of the week's best moments in television.

We are excited about the cast that is coming. VH1's college tour has been very popular.
—MCAB member Colleen Sullivan

In addition to St. Clair, the panel will include Mike Britt, Aziz Ansari, and Pete Holmes. "They're not exactly politically correct," said Colleen Sullivan, the MCAB Special Committee chair who helped organize the event. "It's hard to say exactly what they will talk about, but they enjoy poking fun at the likes of Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes."

Sullivan said MCAB originally planned the event as a way to bring back comedian Christian Finnegan, who headlined a well-attended event at Middlebury last spring and regularly contributes to "Best Week Ever." While Finnegan was not able to commit to the date, she said, "We are excited about the cast that is coming. VH1's college tour has been popular."

St. Clair, for whom Friday's show represents something of a homecoming, has appeared on "The Colin Quinn Show," "Late Night with Conan O'Brien" and the Bravo series "Things I Hate About You."

She also co-starred in the 2004 film "Terrorists: the Movie" and is a regular fixture at the Upright Citizens Brigade theater in New York. Said Sullivan, "Jessica is really excited to come back."

Organizers hope attendance at "Best Week Ever" will prove worthy of the show's popularity. "We're looking to draw the same crowd as for the Capitol Steps," said Sullivan, referring to a show put on by the acclaimed political comedy troupe earlier this year.

"Fans of the show are very excited about the opportunity to see them live in our gym, and those who aren't as familiar with it should be excited to see these up-and-coming comedians," she added.

Students hoping to attend the show can pick up tickets today in Atwater Dining Hall, Friday in Ross Dining Hall, at the door or through the College's online box office.

Wining and dining at Dolci

Vlad Lodoaba

Senior Head Chefs Scott Kleiman and Meg Guffin treated ticketholders over 21 to a special Dolci last Friday, which included a wine accompaniment with each course. The evening was topped off with mocha souffle aaccompanied by a glass of champagne.

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'In the Blood' goes into deep issues

By Elizabeth Lyon
Staff Writer

Albert Bitici

The Welfare Lady, played by Himali Soin '08, reprimands homeless and husbandless Hester La Negrita, played by Charly Nixon '06, in a heated scene from the controversial "In the Blood."

Middlebury's production of Suzan-Lori Parks' play "In The Blood" redefined the term "off-off Broadway." Under the direction of Theater Department Visiting Professor Jaye Austin Williams, a distinguished activist-director from New York City, the cast and crew put on a play the likes of which Middlebury College rarely sees. Steve Settler, an adjudicator from the Weston Playhouse, said of the lead actor, Charzetta Nixon '06, for whom this play was a 700 Project: "If there is anybody who should be proud of a senior project in acting, it should be Charly."

Nixon played the lead role, Hester La Negrita, a homeless welfare mother who was simultaneously systematically and culturally oppressed by the rest of the cast at the same time that she played their courageous, strong, and dedicated mother. Her role was the only continuous one in the play. Will Damron '09, Leah Day '07.5, Jonathan Ellis '06, Knef King '08, and Himali Soin '08 each played double roles. Half of the time, they were Hester's bastard children. The rest of the time, they were judges of her character, fellow victims of an inescapably oppressive system, and oppressors who took advantage of her and used her exploitability to avoid culpability in her oppression.

The story was unrealistic, the characters bizarre, the plot twists inconceivable. However, King, who played Jabber, Hester's oldest son, and Chilli, her first love, said, "Some people had gripes with the play's writing. It doesn't seem real. But it isn't a piece about naturalism. It's about symbolism and representing our way of life. You lose a huge part of this play if you don't think of it as a statement."

Visiting Professor of Anthropology Linda White commented on the play's importance, saying, "A homeless African-American welfare mother is a ubiquitous sign in our society of economic inequities, racism, and sexism. She is also a symbol of our failure as a society. One of the things that makes this play so compelling is that Parks takes the spotlight off of the downtrodden homeless woman, Hester, and puts it on the bigotry, ignorance and hypocrisy of the individuals and institutions that shape reality for this homeless mother of five."

"In the Blood" opened and closed with the entire cast on catwalks above the stage blaming Hester for having children out of wedlock with five different fathers and for being illiterate, homeless, and pathetic. After the audience had heard their cruel judgment, Hester, standing in front of a chalked verdict reading, "SLUT," raised her newborn to the sky, and cooed, "My treasure, my joy," resisting classification as solely a homeless black welfare mother. In that moment, Hester embodied compassion and innocence.

Throughout the play, the audience empathized with Hester when the other characters confessed to having taken advantage of her. The Welfare Lady (Soin) spoke of bringing Hester home for a threesome, how scared she was "of catching something" and how exciting it was to slap Hester's face during sex. As clips from Nelly's "Tip Drill" played on monitors around the space, Amiga Gringa, played on crutches by extremely talented Day who tore her ACL and shattered her kneecap during the first performance, mentioned performing lesbian shows with Hester for money. Chilli dressed Hester up in a wedding gown, proposed marriage and then physically took back the dress when he realized that she had other men's children. After Reverend D. (Damron) ignored Hester's pleas for money for their child, he asked her to suck him off. He then called her a slut and went back inside.

Jabber found his mother, humiliated, lying on the stoop of the new church. Delighted that he had finally discovered the meaning of the word "SLUT," he taunted her as she cried and pleaded for him to stop. Using a police baton stolen by her other son, Trouble (Ellis), Hester beat Jabber to death. Horrified, she collapsed on top of his body, crying and screaming. The sky opened up and rain drenched her as she lay on top of Jabber's body and used his blood to write, "A," the only letter that she recognized, onto the asphalt.

As members of the audience sat, stunned, they were forced, as Director Williams intended, to "rigorously and actively recognize people that [we] might otherwise dismiss." The play made us to question our own involvement in the oppression of real-life Hesters. We normalize subsidies to agriculture but decry "welfare queens" as drags on the capitalist system. Our Protestant work ethic implicitly blames the poor for being lazy. When a woman gets pregnant, we use verbs that erase the man who impregnated her. When we think about prisoners, we think about their crimes and not the contexts within which they committed crimes. We, like the characters who confess to taking advantage of Hester without seeing themselves as perpetrators of violence, do not ask what role we play in systematic injustices. We have developed extensive, sophisticated mechanisms to avoid implicating ourselves.

"In The Blood's" power lies in what it left with the audience. It is important because of the way it echoes in memory and the way it can ripples through a community. Director Williams wrote in the playbill, "Parks implores us to examine ourselves—our place in this society, our view of it, and our individual and collective culpability in whatever oppression it perpetrates. Where are our blind spots; what facets of our society and the people who comprise it do we persistently not see, or see only through lenses that safely distance us from them—important questions we as American must ask ourselves."

Addison County Arts Awards 2006:

Every year in April, the Friends of the Arts at Middlebury College presents awards in six categories to creative individuals who have made considerable contributions to the arts in Addison County. The Middlebury Campus *gets the low-down on the winners.*

Jonathan Blake

Front row (from left to right): Amanda Morse, Megan Morse. Back row: Peg Brakeley, Vera Ryersbach, Lynn Stewart Parker, Pam Paradee, Reed Prescott, Jennifer Watson, Viscaya Wagner, Emily Hillman, Frank Spina.

Jennifer Watson '06
Phi Beta Kappa Scholar, studied abroad in France and Italy, hopes to receive Fulbright Scholarship to help children in France explore social identity after college.

Emily Hillman
Senior at Middlebury Union High School, has taken all available visual art courses, helped build sets at the Addison Repertory Theater, thinking about entering the Fashion Institute in New York City.

Viscaya DuMond Wagner
Gifted in color balance and composition, has enjoyed the arts since she was very young, has studied the art of Monet, Picasso and Warhol.

Megan Morse
Enjoys using shapes and different methods of visualization to create balanced designs, prefers to stay inside during recess to work on her art.

Amanda Morse
Loves color and working with block prints and pottery. Outside of school, she has been done such diverse crafts as basket-making, weaving and rug hooking.

Reed Prescott
Artist since 1988, graduate of the Worcester Art Museum, won Vermont Duck Stamp competition twice, has illustrated 10 books, teaches elementary school workshops.

Spotlight on...Jon Borgen

Middlebury '99 alumnus Jon-Eric Borgen played his first performance at the Gamut Room in the basement of Gifford in 1996. Now working in Boston and fresh off the success of his latest album *The General Store*, he speaks to *The Campus* about the impact music has had on his life as well as the impression he hopes to leave on his listeners.

***The Middlebury Campus:* Was there a defining moment when you realized that you wanted to make creating music an integral part of your life?**

Jon Borgen: There are a few moments I can think of but one that really sticks out is when I was on the road touring with Dispatch as their guitar technician in the fall of 2001. The whole journey of seeing the country and being an up-close witness to the unbelievable impact that these unique artists had on their fans was so inspiring. Since I learned my first chord on the guitar, I loved writing music. But after those three months and then jumping right into music school, it became my life line.

***MC:* What was it like working with producer Scott Riebling of Weezer and Nina Gordon fame?**

JB: Scott was awesome to work with on this record. He's seen such a great amount of success from both the band side and production side and he's so knowledgeable. Before he was a producer, he was a very well-known touring and studio artist and that vast experience as a performer has served him so well toward creating and communicating in the studio. I really value his opinion and patience. Scott really pushed me to look at a song as the sum of its parts. That's hard to do on many levels, but it's an important practice for any writer.

***MC:* This seems to be a pivotal point in your musical career. Are you working on any new projects, and if so, is the industry your top priority at the moment?**

JB: Something I've been really excited to share and get out there is The Relief Project — a non-profit organization that I co-founded last fall with my good friend and Middlebury alumnus, Brad Corrigan '96. The mission is to use music as a means to serve and provide relief to areas of the world where children have been adversely affected by natural disaster, poverty, and injustice. To this point, we've produced and distributed our first compilation CD that features 19 well-known artists around the country (Dispatch, Stephen Kellogg, State Radio, Arrested Development, to name a few). Right now it's just starting to gather some steam, but we've had a great response from our fans and friends and, through CD sales and benefit shows, we've granted over $13,000 to Katrina Relief and the Pakistani Earthquake Emergency Fund in the Allai Valley of Batagram. The Relief Project has been such a great outlet for me to combine my two passions of creating music and helping others.

***MC:* Who would you say are some of your musical influences?**

JB: There are so many [that] it's hard to choose, but ever since I first started listening to music, I've inherently gravitated towards artists like [Bob] Dylan, Bob Marley, The Beatles, Neil Young and other singer/songwriters. The more I write and listen, the more I understand that these individuals possess (or possessed) such a commanding presence of their own mind and have such capacity to know how to create a catchy melody that communicates their message...their voice. There's a raw intimacy with folk-rock artists that appeals on many levels to many different people. I think it's always been my goal to write and sing from that perspective.

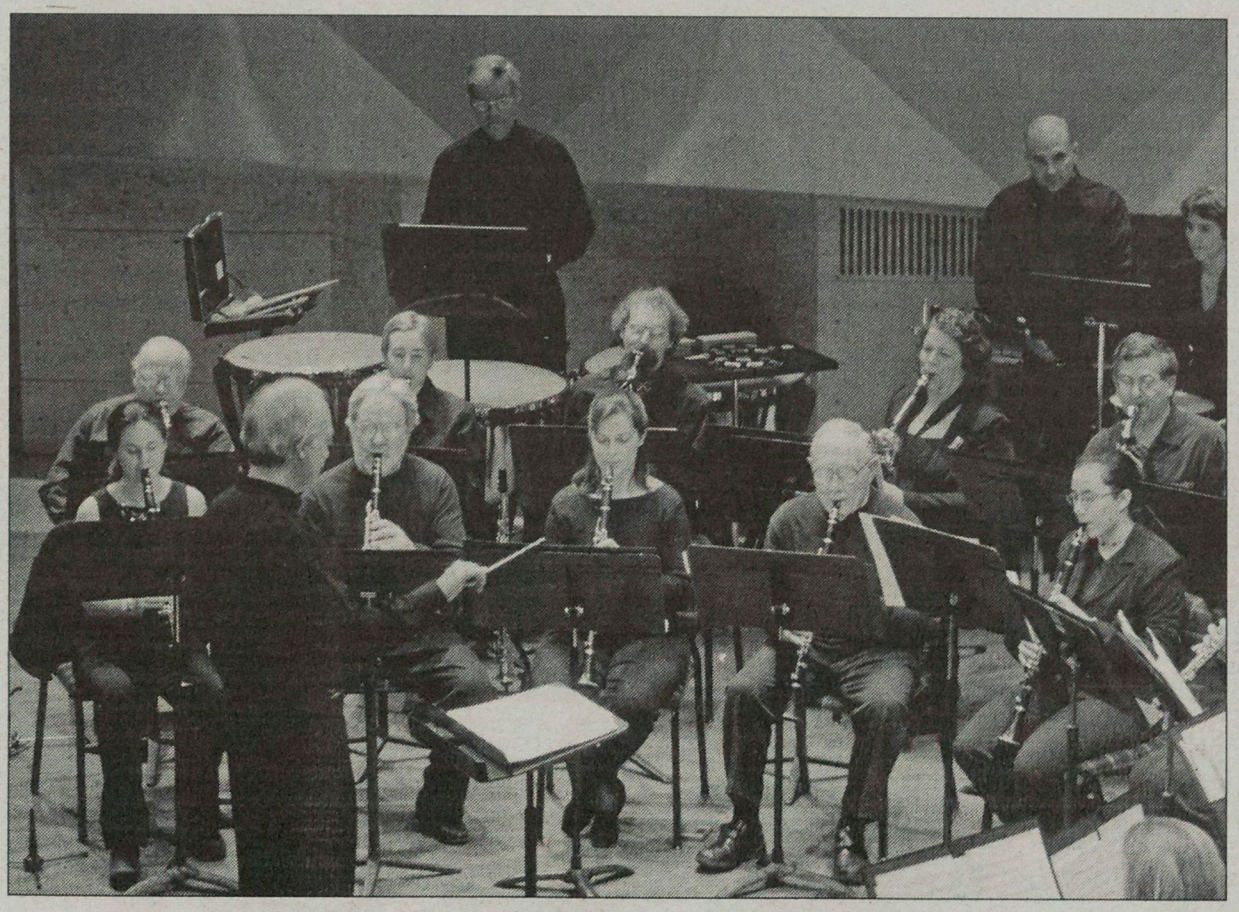
***MC:* What do you want listeners to take from your new album, *The General Store*?**

JB: I think it's instinctual for artists to hope that their work reverberates on a greater level to the person experiencing it. When I write a song, I want some part of it — whether it's the whole song, the melody, the lyric, or a single note — to create a response or emotional attachment with the listener. My goal, for any record, is to have the listener find that emotional connection and to share it with others. As for the individual songs, I don't think there's any deeper statement I'm trying to convey. It's really just a collection of personal perspectives from my own encounters with love, loss, anger, politics, and uncertainty. Everyone can relate to one or more of those ideas.

***MC:* Do you have a favorite track from the album? What is your favorite song to play live?**

JB: Hard question... picking a favorite song is like asking a parent to pick which child they love the most...they can't do it or they feel extremely guilty admitting one over the other. All I can say is that I love each song for its individuality. The live song really depends on the mood of the crowd. I guess any song where the people know the words and sing along is a good song to play live. That kind of stuff makes a performer feel warm and fuzzy.

— Melissa Marshall

Community and students chime in

Ilhan Kim

Joining together in the name of music, students and community members of the Middlebury Community Wind Ensemble play pieces by Bach, Alfred Reed and Adirondack composer Robert Washburn.

WRMC 91.1 FM
On Rotation

BY MELISSA MARSHALL

Every Saturday night, the Middlebury student population convenes in a sweaty mass in one of the social houses, or better yet, in a suite in Gifford meant only to hold fifteen people, to shake off the stress of the work-week. And the theme to these nights of decadence and toasts of Keystone Light? — The eighties. Night after night, party after party, the campus gathers together to pay homage to a decade of music distinguished by its bubble-gum beats and inoffensive lyrics, reliving a time when hairspray and Converse were king. However, the feel-good message of the eighties is not completely six feet under. Absurdly large sunglasses and chunky jewelry aren't the only remnants of that less-than tumultuous decade present in our culture: rock music is also starting to reverberate that classic eighties vibe.

Long gone is the cry for reform and protest found in the lyrics of Bobby Dylan, the sonorous murmur of Jim Morrison's voice, or the twang of Hendrix's guitar. Buried are the heart-wrenching, guttural cries of Cobain and Vedder. Even the more subdued, eloquent complainings of Brand New and Dashboard have faded away in favor of the new, infectious pop-punk of Fall Out Boy and Panic! At the Disco. The modern indie rock wave is here, and it won't change your life, it won't send you on a rollercoaster of emotions, propelling you on a melancholy meander down memory lane, but it may just get you out of your desk and dancing around the room when you're roomie is at the dining hall. Wolf Parade, Clap Your Hands Say Yeah, Bloc Party and Franz Ferdinand are the ring-leaders of this increasingly-popular brand of innocuous rock, their albums vying over the covetous spots of mention in online blogs such as Xanga or Myspace.

Wolf Parade's late September full-length debut, *Apologies to Queen Mary* which was produced by Isaac Brock of Modest Mouse fame, is a solid effort with some stand-out tracks such as "Fancy Claps" and "You are a Runner," while Clap Your Hands Say Yeah are enjoying great success thanks to the internet and their darn catchy beats. Both bands have the irritating, yet somewhat admirable ability to remind you of every other artist that has dominated college radio over the last several months, while still incorporating a distinct sound that makes you want to hear the next track. Maybe it's the wavering vocals and sharp yelps which have become so marketable in the last couple of years thanks to the slightly more veteran efforts of British rockers Bloc Party and Glasgow's famed quartet, Franz Ferdinand. Unfortunately, the fact still remains that even if such awesome tracks as "Banquet", "Eleanor Put Your Boots On" or even "In this Home of Ice" crop up during shuffle sessions on your iPod, the new direction of indie rock music is becoming safe, predictable and sadly unoriginal.

Even indie-pop heroes Death Cab for Cutie have fallen into some of the genre pitfalls. Although their latest release, *Plans*, has such stellar tracks as "I Will Follow You into the Dark" and "Soul Meets Body", missing is the raw emotional intensity present in *We Have the Facts* and *The Photo Album*. *Plans* plays more like a series of tired ballads while their former albums were triumphs of human sensations.

The industry, as well as its fans, will just have to wait and see if 2006 will continue with whimpers instead of bangs, and whether some ground-breaking musicianship will emerge. However, they shouldn't be too worried. The spirit of creativity is still alive and well (as is demonstrated every weekend night by those poor unfortunates not on the guest lists as they shimmey up fire-escapes and devise eloquent stories explaining the absence of their names), even if the current albums climbing up that charts show that today's youth are less concerned with reform and more passionate about their killer dance moves.

Architecture Program blueprints renewal

By Alexxa Gotthardt
Arts Editor

Initiated in the 1970s, Middlebury's pre-architecture program may be young compared to many of the college's other majors, departments and programs, but what it lacks in age, it makes up for in enthusiasm. This year, the program is perhaps more visible than ever. Between the newly conceived joint major "Architecture and the Environment," the successful lecture series "Architecture &...," increased efforts by the weekly student-run discussion forum Architecture Table and last week's Beaux Arts Ball, students and professors are building one of the country's most vibrant, progressive liberal arts pre-architecture programs.

History

The pre-architecture program was born in the 1970s out of student interest and the efforts of Christian A. Johnson Professor of Art Glenn Andres. At the time, the History of Art and Architecture and Studio Art disciplines combined to create one overarching department — a department, however, absent of architectural historical or practical study. "Architecture at Middlebury began as a very informal thing," said Andres, "the department was only art history and studio art at the time, but there were a handful of students who wanted to do independent projects in architecture with joint crits." Andres saw the need for a more focused study of architecture, and began to introduce historical architecture classes to the program. From there, student interest snowballed and demand for more instruction grew to the point where the department was able to hire local architect Turner Brooks to instruct a J-Term design studio.

Growth

In recent years, the program has matured and transformed significantly. For one, the new department under which the pre-architecture program operates is now entitled History of Art and Architecture. In addition, numerous full-time and visiting professors now specialize in architecture and the original count of three or four pre-architecture majors has swelled to a fervent 40. Numerous classes have also been added to satisfy voracious student-architects' creative appetites including Modern Architecture, A History of Architectural Structure and numerous Design Studios, among many others.

A New Major

The newest and arguably most progressive addition to the program is the joint Pre-Architecture and Environmental Studies major. It is paired with its capstone class Architecture and the Environment taught by Associate Professor of History of Art and Architecture Pieter Broucke, who also holds a Professional Degree in Architecture from an institution in Ghent, Belgium. Affectionately and appropriately titled "Arch/ES," this joint major bridges the two disciplines in response to student interest and demand. Devin Green '05.5 put the idea for the joint major into motion in 2004 when she submitted a formal proposal to the environmental studies committee, outlining her model for a new, cutting-edge major.

Motivated by the suggestion, both departments exchanged ideas and Broucke teamed up with Associate Professor of Geology Peter Ryan to draft an official proposal. Approved in fall 2005, the major is now in motion. Both departments are excited about their new relationship and recognize its importance in Middlebury and beyond. "In the real world so many things include interdisciplinary approaches — so much of architecture and design is integrated with the environment, and given the link of energy to environmental quality, architecture is a huge piece of the environmental studies picture," said Ryan. "The combination comes at a very crucial place for both departments."

Broucke echoed these sentiments: "We have been working on getting this joint major on the books for half a decade. It was created because of growing student interest and because if we didn't recognize the importance of sustainability in architecture we'd be crazy."

Location Spurs Progress

An architecture program nestled within Middlebury College would be hard-pressed to ignore the value of green architecture in our world today. The college itself has been a leader in sustainable architecture and design for many years, as shown by the environmentally conscious construction of John McCardell Sr. Bicentennial Hall, Atwater Dining Hall and the newly-constructed wind turbine. Vermont also contributes greatly to the pre-architecture program's awareness of sustainability and its subsequent progressiveness. "When you're sitting in a city at a place like Columbia, it's difficult to think about something like hay bale architecture," said Andres. "Vermont is a place where there is the opportunity to see this environmentally-conscious architecture at a grass-roots level — to really see how it works and how it is directly affecting the community."

Architecture Meets Liberal Arts

The pre-architecture program's connection with environmental studies is not the only thing that sets Middlebury's program apart. The major encompasses many other disciplines as well, making it the archetypal liberal arts education — an idea that majors and professors reinforce enthusiastically. "Architecture is one of the best ways to get a liberal arts education because it includes so many different disciplines — art, design, history, physics, math. Most importantly, though, you have to bring these many disciplines together, by yourself, in a creative way," said Broucke.

"Design is so interdisciplinary and has so many applications that you have to have a great sense of the forces that shape the world around you to be able to practice design well, and I think this is where Middlebury has great success," said pre-architecture major Nick McClintock '07.5. "All the majors who want to practice architecture will be going to some sort of grad school, but the difference will be that we have been trained to look at the world from many different angles, whereas many people coming out of architecture programs at UVA and Cal Poly and places like that will never be able to look at design with that kind of depth."

This is good news for pre-architecture majors, according to Broucke and Andres, as more and more graduate schools and professional firms are hiring graduates with a well-rounded background. Looking at Middlebury's recent crop of pre-architecture alumni, the advantage of a liberal arts background is obvious. "We now have a generation of alumni architects who are out in the world in top national and international grad schools and successful firms," said Andres. Not only is this a clear display of the burgeoning success of the program, but it also provides current students even better connections to the architecture world outside Middlebury in the form of internships, jobs, guest-lectures and professorships and a general support of the program and its growth.

Outside World Comes In

The student-led Architecture Table and the new "Architecture &..." series are also revolutionizing Middlebury's pre-architecture program. Chair of the Architecture Table Teague Douglas '06 explained that the forum discussion, guest-lectures and field trips organized by the group open Middlebury to the larger world of architecture and design. Architecture table also organized last Saturday's Beaux Arts Ball—an elegant, black-tie evening aimed at bringing together alumni, professors and students from the pre-architecture program and beyond. In addition. The "Architecture &..." series, a joint effort by the History of Art and Architecture Department and the Bread Loaf Corporation, offers presentations and discussions on architecture by local and international experts. All of the lectures in the series have filled Dana Auditorium close to full capacity and attracted many local professionals.

A Progressive Program

All of these changes, improvements and additions are placing Middlebury's pre-architecture program and its students boldly on the map. "There are very few undergrad programs in architecture and ours is a very successful one," said Broucke. "Within our peer-group we are in the forefront."

Visiting Assistant Professor of Architecture Parker Croft, who is rounding out his last semester at Middlebury after 13 years, also expressed his enthusiasm for the uniqueness of Middlebury's program: "I don't know of any other college that has what we offer here—we teach people how to think, not to be junior architects."

And while it may be easy to get caught up in talk of in-depth classes, matriculation and elaborate plans for the future, it is basic student interest and student-professor collaboration that has tranformed the program into the strong, innovative, sought-after program it is today. "Everything has been generated by student initiative, it is really the esprit de corps of the students," said Andres.

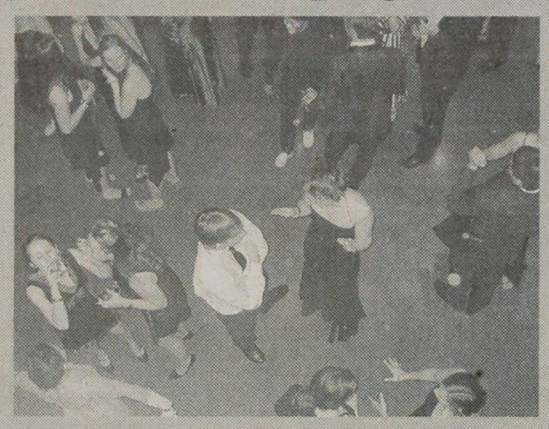
"Talk about amazing students," said Croft. "All I do is facilitate. The students are everything. It is their commitment, hard work and passion that's making this department what it is."

Joyce Man

Chris Nielson '06 works on his senior project in the Johnson architecture studio. Nielson joins the ranks of numerous other Middlebury students who have chosen to pursue architecture through a liberal arts education.

Architecture Table Beaux Arts Ball

Schmoozing with champagne in rare glamour in Johnson



Courtesy of Jessica Isler

Cobu dancers drum up wild frenzy

By Michael Jou and Ena Yasuhara
Staff Writers

The Japanese Club, the Middlebury Asian Social Organization and the Japanese Department sponsored a rhythmical dance performance last Friday night starring Cobu, a Japanese dance group known for their unique fusion of tap dance and taiko drumming. The group's eight performers dazzled on McCullough stage with dance and drums, entertaining the audience with an exceptional spectacle combining traditional and modern forms of Japanese artistic expression.

Cobu was founded in 1999 by Yako Miyamoto, the first Japanese member ever to enter the exclusive company of the world-famous dance performance group "Stomp." The name "Cobu", written with the Japanese characters for "taiko" and "dance," reflects the group's motto: "Dance like drumming. Drum like dancing." The performance only showcased the talents of eight dancers, but the troupe, based in New York, has other members and currently offers classes in tap dance and taiko drumming in New York City. Although the performance of 15 pieces, which lasted an hour and on tap dancing to the beat of the taiko drums, the show was far from repetitive or monotonous. Costumes ranged from long, traditional Chinese silk dresses known as *qipao* to basketball jerseys, and the dancing consisted of hip-hop as well as *nihonbuyou*, traditional Japanese fan dance. The performance included three different kinds of taiko drums and energetic aphorisms in Japanese. In addition, there were improvisation routines, where the leader Miyamoto called on specific dancers to repeat the same rhythm that she drummed on the taiko by tapping. The production also featured tap dancing to the melody of "sakura," a well-known Japanese folk song being played, on the traditional Japanese *shamisen*, a guitar-like instrument with three strings. What the spectators saw was a unique mixture of traditional and modern cultures, of occidental and oriental elements that united to form a cohesive ensemble.

One example of this mélange was seen in a piece where all members wore brightly colored outfits. Leg-warmers, basketball jerseys, short shorts, and vests covered the stage to present a modern, hip-hop look that was almost ostentatious. Although their costumes asserted elements of breakdance and hip-hop, the taiko drums in the background kept the beat of the piece and the performers never took off their tap shoes.

Perhaps one of the most striking features of the dancers was their individuality, which was visible in their distinct, wild and colorful hairstyles. They ranged from highlights and afros to dreadlocks and layers. Yet, while each dancer maintained his or her individuality, the members together appeared as a cohesive troupe with a common identity.

Vlad Lodoaba

Two dancers strike a pose in the middle of an energetic combination, invigorating the stage with high energy during Cobu's recent performance.

In addition to giving a well-received performance, the troupe also held a workshop on Saturday afternoon at which students were exposed to the basic forms of taiko drumming and learned basic taiko rhythms.

Editors' A&E picks
for the week of 4/13 - 4/20

13

SLAM POET STACEYANN CHIN
7-9 p.m. in McCullough Hall
A young, passionate poet with both talent and conviction, Staceyann Chin comes to Middlebury with her rhyme, rhythm and reason. Chin's diverse, impressive background includes numerous slam competition titles, participation in the 2003 Tony Award winning DEF Poetry Jam, HBO specials, one woman shows, documentary films, gay activism and many a published poem.

13

INTO THE WOODS
Thursday 8-10 p.m. Friday 10 p.m.-12 a.m. Saturday 2-4 and 8-10 p.m. in Hepburn Zoo
Winner of numerous 1987 Tony Awards, "Into the Woods" tells the tale familiar fairytale characters who meet and end up in very unfamiliar situations. The music of Stephen Sondheim, the fairytales of Brothers Grimm and aspects of contemporary culture combine to create a playful, powerful musical performed and directed by Middlebury students.

14

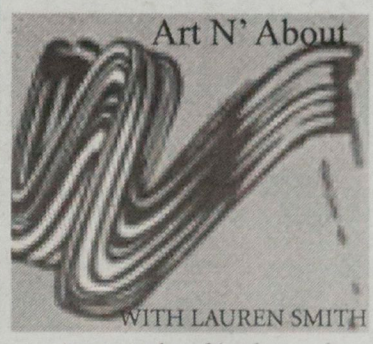
IL BALLO DELLE INGRATE
Theatrical Madrigal "Il Ballo delle Ingrate" (translated as "Ballet of the Ungrateful Women"), composed by famed Italian Baroque composer, violinist and singer Claudio Monteverdi, will be performed in the CFA Concert Hall this Friday. The production is the senior work of Daniel Donnelly '06 and will feature Jenna Boyle '06, Amanda Kleinman '09 and Scott Guenther '06 singing Monteverdi's masterpiece in Italian (with English supertitles).

14

VACA ART OPENING
9 p.m. to 1 a.m. in Forrest Basement
Vitality for an Artistic Community (VACA) kicks off their spring program with a profusion of student art in Forrest Basement. VACA has been holding regular student art exhibitions around campus, with one in November also held in the same space, to invigorate the campus with more creativity.

15

ALC CULTURAL SHOW "HIDDEN TREASURES"
8-10 p.m. in McCullough Social Space
The "Hidden Treasures" of Latin America and the Caribbean is the theme for this year's annual cultural show. The production will highlight the rich cultural fabric of this area by including music, dance, poetry, tradition, society and history. Student performances will be supplemented by a presentation by Voices of Indigenous Peoples, representing the traditional dances of Native Americans.



WITH LAUREN SMITH

An art student friend recently told me that his illustration class visited an exhibit of human corpses in Philadelphia. I immediately thought this must be illegal, but there are indeed over 200 real human corpses now on display at the Franklin Institute of Science Museum in Philly.

The highly-controversial exhibit is touring the United States with more stops this year in Houston, Boston and Denver. The controversy, as one might imagine, surrounds the donated human corpses that have been "plasticized." In the 1970s, Gunther von Hagens, a German scientist and the artist behind the Body Worlds exhibits, invented plasticization while a student. It involves removing water and fats from human tissue and replacing them with polymers. This prevents the corpses from decomposing.

The bodies come from Hagen's Heidelberg Institute for Plastination. A body donor signs a declaration of intent that gives the institute permission to have his body preserved and on display for eternity. Hagens only accepts bodies that have died of natural causes. Creepy? Yes. Possibly frightening to young children? Yes. All children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult when visiting the exhibit. All of this scientific stuff makes for an interesting, if not slightly disconcerting, exhibit. Ever wondered what your food looks like as it travels down your esophagus? Here, you can see "plasticized" food in a real human stomach. We read about the impact healthy lifestyles have on our bodies all the time. This may be the first opportunity to understand it. Body Worlds allows the viewer to compare a smooth aorta with one hardened with atherosclerosis. In the respiratory area, one can compare a healthy pink lung to one tarred with nicotine. At a certain point, visitors can even touch a group of plastinated organs.

Perhaps the creepiest part — and what could constitute it as art — is the poses of the "plastinates." In the "Chess Player," for example, the corpse has a serious expression on its face. In another, a plastinate with big muscles on his arms and a stomach flayed out like wings, wears a panama hat. The poses seem to be for no other purpose than aesthetics. Does that make the Body Worlds exhibit art? It seems that Hagens needs to decide if he is aiming for art or science. "The exhibit towed a rather unsatisfying line between art and science," my art student friend said. "I feel like it needed to be more of one or the other."

Whatever you want to call Hagens' work, it is clear that his corpses are not just dead bodies. They are frank, grotesque statements on mortality. The scientist writes on his website that he is "asking viewers to transcend their fundamental beliefs and convictions about our joint and inescapable fate." Hagens does not consider his work "art", however, he writes, "the human body is the last remaining nature in a man made environment. I hope for the exhibitions to be places of enlightenment and contemplation, even of philosophical and religious self-recognition, and open to interpretation regardless of the background and philosophy of life of the viewer." And isn't that art?

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&
Two Brothers Tavern

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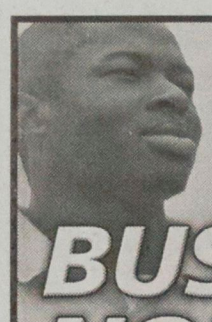
Peace, love and MCAB



If you're unsure of how you'll get a job with your degree after graduation...

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Women claim gold with final push

'Big Three' Regatta next as Bowdoin and Amherst lie in wait

Courtesy

Coxed by senior Stephanie Pritchard '06, the women's four+ A boat stormed past Bowdoin to claim victory despite a furious late rally from their rivals.

By Brooke Farquhar
Staff Writer

It's still winter for the Middlebury crew team. At least it was this past Monday morning at 4:30 a.m. when practice began with the temperature hovering around 28 degrees. These bitter practice conditions, however, have not hindered the start of the team's season.

As Brooke Adams '07, coxswain of the men's varsity four, commented, "Despite only having a few days of practice on the water before our first regatta of the season, the weekend was an overall success."

The regatta was held at Lake Quinsigamond in Worcester, Mass. The women's varsity four A boat finished in first place ahead of Bowdoin, Fairfield and Mass. Maritime in an exhilarating race. Bowdoin held first place for the initial 1000m, but Middlebury overtook them with less than 700 meters to go.

Coxswain Stephanie Pritchard '06 described the race as "a fight all the way until the end of the race, but Bowdoin faded during the sprint." The women's four B boat finished in second place against Bowdoin after leading for the first 500 meters. The women's varsity eight also earned an impressive first place finish against a strong Clark team, winning by three boat lengths of open water.

The success of the women's team at the regatta was fueled, according to Pritchard, by a "surprising silver medal during spring training at the Atlanta Olympic Rowing Center."

The men's varsity four also competed strongly during spring training, pulling off a third place finish in the finals against several large southern schools including Vanderbuilt, Emory, Georgia Tech and LSU. The men's varsity four looks very similar to the boat that raced last spring, with the exception of Justin Scott '08 who Adams '07 describes as a "very promising sophomore bowman."

The men's varsity four finished second versus Bowdoin and Clark. The men's novice four finished fourth against Bowdoin, Mass Maritime and Clark, although it was their first race and only the fourth day rowing for two of the novices.

Overall, it was a very successful weekend for the novice women's team.
— Coach D'Astolfo

The women's novices raced two four boats. The A boat finished third against the Bowdoin and Middlebury varsity boats, and the B boat finished second against Bowdoin. Acting Women's Novice Coach Neil D'Astolfo commented that "overall, it was a very successful weekend for the novice women's team. Both boats looked extremely strong and both competed well against one of our biggest rivals, Bowdoin…[the regatta] was especially beneficial in that it gave us our first taste of New England competition." He continued, "These women are hungry for a New England title, and they are definitely hoping to take the first steps toward that title with a win this upcoming weekend against Amherst and Bowdoin." This sentiment applies to both men's and women's varsity teams.

This upcoming weekend in Hadley, Middlebury will see Bowdoin for a rematch and Amherst for the first time this season. Adams noted in light of the upcoming regatta, "Next weekend, we face our toughest competitors…and hope to keep ourselves ahead of the other crews at the start to ensure a strong finish."

Pritchard added "This 'Big Three' regatta is one of our most important during the regular season as Bowdoin and Amherst are always strong crews and there are trophies on the line." Assured of a few more practices on the water, the crews are confident going into the weekend.

Ultimate wins two in style

Continued from page 28

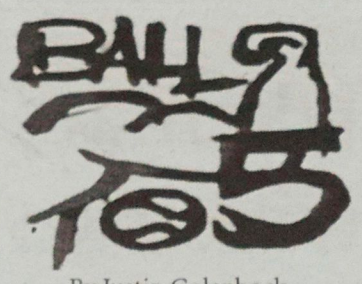
upcoming Yale Cup this weekend and subsequent Sectional and Regional brackets.

But the true glory of the Ultimate Frisbee team is not as much about the athletic success as it is the friendships and relationships developed within the team and with other squads. As do many other Middlebury students, opposing teams identify the Pranksters with just a quick glance. In fact, the Middlebury team has become somewhat of an icon for regional competition. Schools openly look forward to playing Middlebury for their athletic spirit, honest play and quirky behavior. At the High Tide Tournament, the second tournament won over spring break, several teams stayed for the final day of competition to cheer on the Pranksters and encourage them to victory.

Perhaps the most amazing characteristic of the Middlebury Ultimate Frisbee team is its ability to infect its surroundings with fun, pride and enthusiasm. In Proctor Dining Hall, the rambunctious, brightly-dressed crew forces people to yield at the slightest smirk. Likewise at Frisbee tournaments, teams hope to draw Middlebury as an opponent because they "always offer a solid game, and [they] keep the games fun and honest," said Bates. The Pranksters seem to be the quintessential Ultimate Frisbee team. They embody the principles of fun, hard work and eccentricity. As the men's captains put it, the Frisbee culture has been a remarkable one "of both high competitiveness as well as spirit and respect, and the Pranksters take that to heart."

Editors' Picks

Questions of the week:	*Zamir Ahmed*	*Tom McCann*	*Ryan W. Reese*
Will the men's lacrosse team overcome Bowdoin in this weekend's NESCAC showdown?	YES The perennial NESCAC champs better snap out of their slump soon. I think they'll do it this week.	NO They'd be favorites on Kohn Field, but this one's on the road and frankly, they're not the force of old.	NO The Polar Bears will take advantage of an underachieving Panther team
Will Kevin Bright '06 win the 400m hurdles by 50m or more on Saturday?	NO He'll win, I'd say by about 40 meters, but he's not Edwin Moses. And that guy was good.	YES Kevin doesn't run — he glides. 50m is big, but he's not exactly racing Olympic gold medalists here.	YES Bright will outshine the stars of formidible foes from Bowdoin and New England College
Will Tom or Ryan find more eggs in their annual 'Easter Egg Hunt'?	RYAN I don't think I'm making the mistake of putting too many eggs in one basket on this pick.	RYAN I know I should have more faith in my ability, but I'm just not very good at finding Easter eggs.	RYAN This answer hinges on whether or not Tom decides to wear his contact lenses. Bring on the bunny!
All-Time Record:	**18 - 18 (.500)**	**27 - 9 (.750)**	**20 - 16 (.555)**



By Justin Golenbock

It's Opening Day at Fenway and I'm distracted, so let's dip into the mailbag.

From Lexington, Mass., we have one reader, N. Sullivan, who'd like to respond with an apology for his response to last week's Ball 5 column:

"Dear Ball 5 reader(s?): I write to apologize. Until now I had been seduced by the myth of Trot Nixon.

He's a great hitting throwback who plays tough, right? Tough?! Trot Nixon's yearly income: $6 million. Eye-black: $5.95/tin. Dirt: free. After getting 'toughed' out for the year, Trot's still a millionaire. Tom Arnold is a millionaire. Now I don't like to generalize... but, yeah... A great hitter? Facing a righty with a mediocre fastball, Trot's your man. But it's well known that against any lefty with the talent level of a drunk hedgehog with an inner ear infection, Trot's in trouble. Trot, your cult of personality is over! Be warned!"

Which leads me to an interesting subject: apologies. As in, if you're one of the people who has ever disliked my column, you should write in and apologize. I promise you'll get in *The Campus*.

More relevantly: mailbags. Why does every columnist who thinks he's Peter King get to do this? You know, when a sports writer runs out of ideas and decides to simply respond to the random musings and inane inside jokes of his or her buddies and call it a column.

This wouldn't bother me, except they get *paid* to write these uninspired columns. I never run out of ideas. I simply get too lazy to come up with them.

Which leads full circle back to my original topic: apologies. As in, *The Campus* should apologize for offering me such an insultingly low dollar figure: $0.

Now, here I have indisputable PROOF that at least one person has purchased *The Campus* to read my column alone (how much do these things cost?), and yet, no e-mail entreaties. No phones ringing off their proverbial hooks. No *Jerry Maguire*-esque faxed salary sheets. Come on people, what does the Rod Tidwell of *The Campus* have to do? Show me the money!

So in honor of that most familiar emotion that motivates professional athletes (spurned arrogance), I'm hereby announcing my singular intention to finish this "contract year" (senior year) with a flurry of activity, before next year REFUSE TO WRITE ANOTHER WORD.

Yeah, that's right, you heard me: I'm holding out. Unless I get my money, it's this year, then I'm done.

But it shouldn't have to come to that. So to fully express my feelings on the subject, let me once more call upon the great *Jerry Maguire*:

"We live in a cynical world. A cynical world. And we work in a business of tough competitors. But [*Campus*]... I love you. You... complete me."

Women rack up five-game win streak

Loss to Salisbury only blemish of 7-1 season record for Panthers

By Sarah Luehrman
Staff Writer

Three NESCAC victories in a row have boosted the Middlebury women's lacrosse team's position in the league as well as its determination. A 19-6 victory over Tufts on Kohn Field Tuesday afternoon fueled a five-game winning streak for the 7-1 Panthers, and this weekend they travel to Bates undefeated in the conference. "The team has really come together over the past couple games," said captain Alison Perencevich '06, "and we've been improving our game all over the field."

Last Sunday was "a great day to be a Panther," according to assistant coach Melissa Hopkins after Middlebury's home game against Bowdoin. After a brief lead for the Polar Bears in the first 10 minutes of the game, the Panthers turned it on and scored five goals in a row, two of which came from attacker Schuyler Winstead '06, the leading scorer for the day with four total goals. Perencevich also scored on a defense-initiated fastbreak with four different assists, beginning with a ground ball by Natalie Shettle '07 passed on to Reid Berrien '08. Berrien then streaked down the field and passed to captain Emily Erickson '06, who fed the ball to an away cut from Winstead to Perencevich for the goal. Perencevich commented that the team has been focusing on "applying pressure all over the field" and maintaining a high intensity on attack and defense — the tight collaboration employed in the Bowdoin game serves to showcase their progress. "We really gelled," she said, "and accomplished a lot of what we've been working hard on in practice." The team ended the day with a 15-6 victory to show for it.

Ilhan Kim

Senior Channing Weymouth added two goals to her season tally on Tuesday, leading her team to a commanding 19-6 win over Tufts. The victory takes Middlebury to 7-1 on the season, and marks a fifth consecutive triumph.

The Bowdoin win came on the heels of a 16-11 victory at Trinity the previous weekend. "We really worked our fast-break well [at Trinity]," noted Perencevich, "and had good transition with the ball." With 10 minutes remaining the first half and a slim 4-3 lead, the Panthers took off on a six-goal streak, after which the Bantams scored once more to end the half at 10-4.

The second half started well, highlighted by five saves from goalie Blair Bowie '09. Trinity answered, however, with a six goal run of their own, narrowing the Panthers' lead to 13-11. An unassisted goal by Winstead broke the streak, followed a minute later by a high shot from captain Elizabeth Renehan '06 on a pass from Mimi Schatz '08. The game ended with a final shot from Perencevich with a feed from Renehan, "the most selfless play of the game," according to Hopkins. Renehan's four goals and two assists made her the offensive leader, followed closely by Michele Bergofsky '07, with three goals and two assists, and Winstead with two goals and four assists.

The team's current winning streak began at on the Connecticut College fields on Monday, March 27, the first day back from spring break. The Panthers ran circles around the Camels and walked away with an easy 21-9 victory. The statistics speak for themselves — Middlebury outshot Connecticut 32-18 and mastered them in draw controls as well, 17-12. Bergofsky scored the first goal of the game, capturing a groundball on the left side then scoring on the right with a sidearm release — Connecticut goalie Alix Werner must have known she was in for it then. Six goals later, with the Panthers leading 7-0, the Camels answered with a few of their own, but they were no match for Middlebury's aggressive offense and zone defense. Perencevich led the offense with five goals, bolstered by three each from Channing Weymouth '06 and Winstead.

Just two days later, the Panthers finally got to play on Kohn Field, the first home game of the season, against Union. After an initial 2-0 lead, Union came back with a pair of goals to tie the game before Middlebury's offense fired up and scored five of the next six goals. The half ended at 7-3 after a nice free-position shot from Winstead and a low shot by Renehan with an assist from Bergofsky. Middlebury and Union exchanged goals for the first 14 minutes of the second half, when Union scored for the last time and the Panthers took off on a six goal run to end the game at 15-5.

The Panthers suffered their only defeat of the season in Florida over spring break at the hands of Salisbury, the same team to serve them their only regular season loss in 2005. Hopkins called it "a battle of possession and finesse," a wake-up call after an easy 21-1 victory over St. Lawrence two days earlier. Salisbury was first to score, but Renehan answered on a feed from Bergofsky just moments later. Fourteen minutes of play followed with no goals scored, but "a lot of great focused Zone defense intermingled lots of shots at both ends of the field," recalls Hopkins. "The Zone was a loud coop using very direct communication that you could hear all the way at the opposite end."

Women's Lacrosse

Saturday, April 8

Middlebury	15
Bowdoin	6

Tuesday, April 11

Middlebury	19
Tufts	6

Salisbury scored, however, and began widening their lead slowly. The half ended with Salisbury leading 36-3 after Kim Walker '07 scored on a free-position shot. Middlebury and Salisbury had each totaled 13 offensive possessions thus far. In the second half, the Panthers had 11 possessions over the Sea Gulls' seven, the latter applying a patient offense to Middlebury's pressure. In the last 10 minutes of the game, with Salisbury leading 8-4, the Panthers started going after their opponents, making their last two minutes of the game "the most aggressive minutes on the field," according to Hopkins. Weymouth scored on a fastbreak with an assist from Winstead, and Renehan tallied moments later on a free position to end the game at 6-8.

Bates, 0-2 in the conference, will have much to contend with this weekend when they host Middlebury, who is yet to be defeated by a NESCAC team, this Saturday, April 25. The game will be the Panthers' fourth conference game, and they will rush the Bobcats' turf hoping to continue their streak. "We are headed into the core of our season," says Perencevich, "and we're excited for our upcoming games."

BY THE NUMBERS

By Jeff Patterson, Staff Writer

0	Losses for the baseball team when facing a southpaw, or in extra-innings games
4	Times men's hockey coach Bill Beaney has won NCAA D-III Coach of the Year
4	Straight games in which Schuyler Winstead '00 and Kim Walker '00 have scored at least twice for the women's lax team
4	Hits this weekend for Wesleyan's Jeffrey Maier, the same guy who caught Derek Jeter's "homerun" in the 1996 ALCS.
2:50	Time it took for the Panther baseball team to beat Wesleyan 8-2 in 11 innings.
250	Attendance at that two hour 50-minute game in Middletown, Conn.

INSIDE THE LOCKER ROOM

Amanda Berck '08 steps off the court to talk

Berck plays second singles on the women's tennis team and was last year's NESCAC Rookie of the Year.

***The Campus:* Why did you choose tennis?**

Amanda Berck: I chose tennis because it's a sport where you can, um, you create the results, no one else chooses your destination for you. Um, for instance, you know, like when I was younger, all the team sports. I was this sorry little girl and people didn't really pick me for teams 'cause I didn't look very athletic, and my dad always told me to do tennis because that's something you could totally prove to people.

***TC:* What's your best shot?**

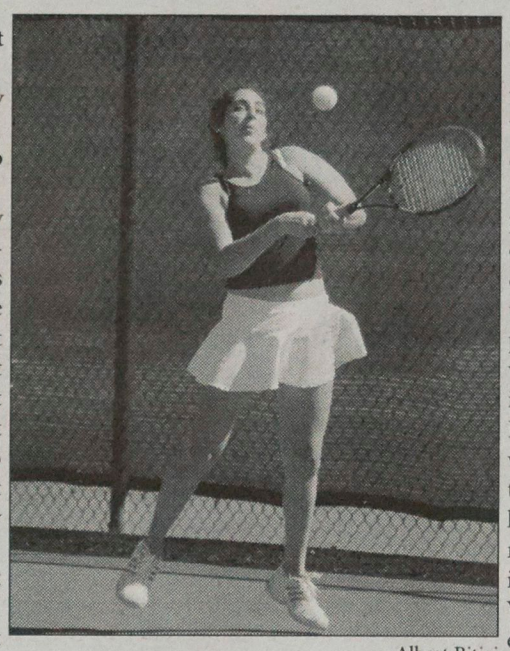
AB: My best shot is my forehand cross-court dipper.

***TC:* How'd you come up with that?**

AB: Um, in doubles, my dad taught me to do this because I love to just smash shots at the volleyer, at the people who are at net. But then, what would happen is, the people at net, it's actually easier to hit just hit shots hard, while if you hit shots at their feet, they have to bend down and they can hit just a light shot for you to put away afterwards.

***TC:* What do you love most about tennis?**

AB: What I love most about tennis is, um, it's therapeutic for me. It's just me and ball pretty much out there when I play. I let all my anger, all my frustration – I just express myself through tennis. I like how you use your intelligence while playing.



Albert Bitici

***TC:* What's your best tennis moment?**

AB: My best tennis moment was, I have to say, when I went to the SuperNational Clay Courts, um, junior year, the summer of junior year. I played this girl, Anna Jackson. She had a much higher ranking than me in the nation and I had glasses at the time, I was a little dorky girl with glasses, and it was raining out. And they didn't stop it because it was raining because the courts absorb the rain. So, every point – people would, like, make fun, say I would need windshield wipers on my glasses. I had to get paper towels, like, every second to wipe them off, I could not see. And I was destroyed in the first set, like 6-0. And I just said to myself, "Just play point-by-point, forget about the score. Just say, 'get the shot, the shot that comes just get it back over and just try.' " All you can control is your effort and attitude so never think that you're losing, never think that you're gonna lose, obviously, or you've already lost. And I just played point-by-point and without even realizing — I wasn't even switching the scores over, my opponent was — I won the second set and we were in the third set. I won that third set 6-2 and I just remember that that was the best win I ever had and it was truly just — I had a great attitude, I never got down on myself. It was a turning point in my tennis and I had many more victories after that. That was my first great win.

***TC:* Do you have a pre-match ritual?**

AB: Definitely. Tennis players are known to be the most superstitious people. I remember even in high school I had a lucky outfit. I would always wear this outfit for – I remember it exactly — but I would wear it every first match and I wouldn't think, "Oh, well, maybe I just always win first matches because first matches are the easiest." I would think it was because of my outfit. I had certain outfits I would wear for first match, second match, third match, um… I would always mix half water and half Gatorade before I played. Definitely took a lot of Advil before I played. [Laughs] Always felt that there was going to be some injury that I'm going to have to get during the match. And I also do this thing before I served. I, I used to bounce the ball — I don't do this anymore — but I used to bounce the ball seven times before I served because seven was my lucky number.

***TC:* Do you have a favorite sports movie?**

AB: "Legend of Bagger Vance." The golf movie with Will Smith, because my favorite quote is "See the field." I took it in the terms of, like, see there's, put things in perspective, see out of the box. I feel like I could connect a lot of that to tennis, um, how, you know, when you play tennis… [pause]. I guess it was really hard putting things in perspective, um, with tennis. It definitely felt like, you know, winning and losing would control my self-worth and I just felt like tennis was everything, tennis was determining if I was going to be a success or a failure. You know, being an adolescent everything is out of perspective. And that quote, like, "see the field," it was really about look at it as the whole picture. You're playing tennis because you enjoy it, it's a sport. It's nothing that determines anything about you but how… but your strength and character and how much you enjoy doesn't depend on winning and losing a match.

***TC:* How different is it playing tennis individually and then on a team?**

AB: The difference is that it's a lot more comforting playing on the team. In high school — you know, tennis can be a very lonely sport, especially if you're just playing singles. You know, you definitely feel like you're all on your own. It's a gladiator match — it's like one-on-one and you don't have anyone to support you really, even if you have your fans watching you but it's so different when there's somebody right on your side. Um, even playing tennis in college, it's different. A tennis team is so different from a basketball team or a soccer team because you're playing together whereas tennis, it's hard to look at because everyone's playing — except for doubles, for the most part — their own individual game. Except in nationals. I love nationals because that is when I felt like we were closest as a team because it didn't matter our outcomes each individual match. It had to do with, um, how… once we won five matches, whoever won five matches, we'd stop. So even if people didn't even finish their match they would stop because our team already won. So we were truly, at that moment, playing as a team, the closest we came to truly playing as a team. And I like to say it's like all of us are holding on to a racquet, we're holding onto the same racquet and we're playing. I think team unity is an extremely important part of team success and although individual players, very talented, can go well, you definitely need team support. It's a huge bonus in helping you to win matches.

— Zamir Ahmed, Sports Editor

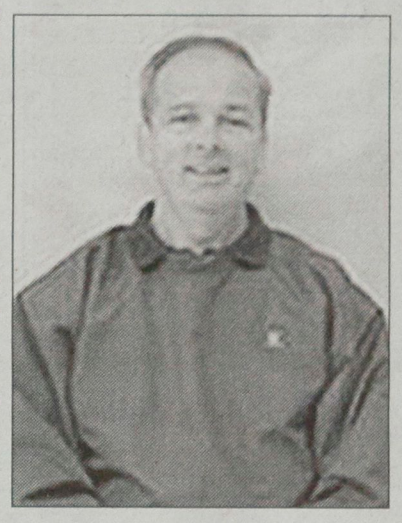
PANTHER SCOREBOARD

Date	Sport	Vs.	Result	Comments
Apr. 9	W Tennis	Amherst	3 - 6	Emily Holik '07 and Elizabeth Stone '09 claim only singles wins.
Apr. 8	M Lacrosse	Amherst	8 - 7	Travis Meyer '06 nets overtime winner to sink Lord Jeff's.
Apr. 8	Softball	Amherst	2 - 6	Pitcher Jen Williams '08 goes 2-3 with the bat despite the loss.
Apr. 8	Softball	Amherst	8 - 6	Six-hit second inning fuels Panther win in doubleheader
Apr. 8	M Tennis	Union	7 - 0	Panthers drop just one set in dominant performance
Apr. 5	M Tennis	Williams	5 - 2	Midd goes 5-1 in singles to beat Ephs for fifth straight time.

SPORTS BRIEFS

BY ZAMIR AHMED & TOM MCCANN, SPORTS EDITORS

Midd hockey gets high marks



The accolades keep coming for the Middlebury men's and women's hockey teams despite the end of their seasons over three weeks ago.

Men's Head Coach Bill Beaney was named by the American Hockey Coaches Association the 2006 Men's Division III Hockey Coach of the Year. Beaney was selected for the Edward Jeremiah Award for the fourth time in his career, the first person in history to earn the distinction four times. Beaney led the Panthers to their third straight national championship and eighth overall. In 26 years of coaching, he now has 467 wins, the most in Division III men's college history.

Also for the men's team, Mickey Gilchrist '08 was named the USCHO.com National Player of the Year. The forward scored 24 goals during the season and assisted on 26 others, leading the Panthers in both categories. Along with Captain Jeff Smith '06, he was named to the organization's East First Team. Teammate Ross Cherry '08 was named to the East Second Team while defenseman Tom Moldonado '08 was an Honorable Mention.

Goaltenders Kate Kogut '06 and Doug Raeder '09 earned a spot in the April 10th issue of "Sports Illustrated" for their efforts in their teams' run to the national title. The athletes became the 13th and 14th Middlebury athletes since 1996 to be recognized in the magazine's Faces in the Crowd section.

Panthers net three wins in water

The women's water polo team traveled to Dartmouth College last weekend for its second New England Division tournament of the spring season. The Panthers continued its strong campaign, winning three of their four matches against some familiar competition.

Middlebury opened up its tournament on April 8 with a 16-8 victory over Williams College. The win over the Ephs was the Panthers second of the season. The team took home an 8-4 decision against Williams on March 4. The Panthers wrapped up the day with an easy 16-4 win against the Yale University B squad.

The Panthers opened up April 9 with an important match against the Yale A team. The Lady Bulldogs proved why they are the number-one team in the region, defeating Middlebury 10-6. The loss was only the Panthers' second of the year, both coming at the hands of the Lady Bulldogs. The team rebounded from the loss with a convincing 16-3 win over Wesleyan University in the last match of the tournament.

The Panthers stand with a 6-2 record in the division going into the New England Division Championship on April 22-23. The Panthers, who will play host to the tournament, currently sit in second place in the league, holding a tiebreaker advantage over third-place Dartmouth. The top two teams from the division will advance to the National Collegiate Club Championship, a tournament the Panthers have never attended but have within their grasp this season.

Intramurals spring into gear

With temperatures soaring, and the snow finally consigned to our not-so-distant past, excitement surrounding the impending spring intramural sports scene is almost palpable. While the soccer and softball leagues are widely considered the marquee sports of the spring season, tennis, badminton and volleyball enthusiasts will no doubt feast on the competitive action that lies ahead for them over the following weeks. Much like the basketball season that continues to rumble along, these sports remain unaffected by inclement weather conditions and provide a consistent source of exercise for their participants. However, enthusiasm for getting out on the diamond or the soccer field is never tempered by the occasional postponement and inevitable frustration that ensues from oft-waterlogged fields.

While early season softball predictions point towards a shoot-out between the Steamers and the Xi Omega Great White Yaks for the pennant, both teams will need to be careful not to let overconfidence get the better of them. With so many teams competing, one upset could derail all thoughts of a ticker-tape parade down College Street. On the soccer field, a wide-open tournament could be won by anyone who gets hot at the right time. It's that time of year again, and for many, it's that time for the last time. There will be no second chances, no "do-overs," no chances for redemption. Grab your racket, lace up your cleats, loosen your arm or strap on your kneepads — it's game time.

Unsung Hero of the Week

Aaron Herter '06 (Men's Lacrosse)
Had two assists, including one to tie the game in the Panthers' 7-6 OT win over Amherst

WOMEN'S LACROSSE | **PANTHERS STEAMROLL THROUGH NESCAC FOES** | 26

CREW | **WOMEN SNATCH THRILLING GOLD ON LAKE QUINSIGAMOND** | 25

GAMES TO WATCH

SOFTBALL
VS. WESLEYAN
APRIL 15 | 11 A.M.

TRACK & FIELD
PANTHER INVITATIONAL
APRIL 15 | 11 A.M.

campus sports

THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2006

Panthers surge past NESCAC rival Wesleyan

Memories of last season's heartbreak purged with 5-1 and 8-2 victories

By Steve Beslow
Staff Writer

After a disappointing end to last year's season, the Panthers baseball squad is off to a spectacular start. The team began the year with a 4-4 record in their inter-league Arizona spring tournament before taking two of three from rival Williams College to open the NESCAC season. The Panthers continued their early success by sweeping a doubleheader from Wesleyan this weekend.

Following a rainout on Saturday, the Panthers wasted no time getting on the board in the first game, capitalizing on some inconsistent Wesleyan pitching. After loading the bases with one out, Joe Ramoin '06 scored easily on a John Lanahan '08 fielder's choice to short. Noah Walker '06 would score one batter later on a wild pitch from Wesleyan's Louis Gabel.

The Panthers would strike again for three in the fourth. Lanahan led off the inning with a double and advanced to third on a single from Nick Lefeber '08. Lanahan would score on yet another wild pitch before Lefeber was brought in on a single from senior Alex Casnocha. The Cardinals seemed to be out of the inning after a double-play, but another error by Gabel kept the inning alive, allowing Gabe Broughton '08 to bring in Dom DiDomenico '06 with an RBI single.

The five runs were more than enough for sophomore hurler Justin Wright, who gave up an unearned run and seven hits while striking out one in seven strong innings. The win brought Wright to a perfect 3-0 on the young season.

The resounding win in the first half of the double-header no doubt gave the Panthers plenty of confidence going into the back end. Nevertheless, it was going to take a lot of innings and a wild ending to ensure a Middlebury sweep.

After giving up an unearned run in the first inning, the Panthers struck back to tie it in the second, when senior Andrew Pavoni scored fellow captain Ryan Armstrong with a sac fly to left. Middlebury took their first lead of the game two innings later, when Casnocha ripped a double down the left field line, bringing Lefeber (who had just been hit by a pitch) in from first.

Wesleyan capitalized on more shaky Panther defense, tying the game in the bottom of the seventh on yet another unearned run off of starter Jack Britton '08, who allowed only four hits and two walks while striking out seven in an extremely impressive seven and one-third innings. Middlebury's pitching held, however, and neither team scored in the eighth or ninth, sending the game into extra innings.

Albert Bitici

Despite a rain-out in one of the three games with Wesleyan, the Panthers clinched the series by winning both games last weekend.

After being held scoreless in the tenth, the Panther offense exploded in the top of the eleventh, tallying six runs off of Wesleyan's Dusty Mones, all of which came with two out. After singles by Casnocha and Pavoni, second baseman Gabe Broughton '08 scored Casnocha from second with a single up the middle. Ramoin continued the two-out rally, ripping an RBI single through the left side. Walker followed with yet another single to left, and the rout was on. After Ramoin scored on an error at second base, Lanahan hit a two-run double to the gap in left-center, wrapping up Middlebury's scoring for the day.

First-year Matt Joseph closed out the game, giving up two hits and two walks while pitching three and two-thirds innings of shutout ball.

The sweep brought the Panthers to 8-5 on the year, with a 4-1 record in the NESCAC, giving them plenty of hope for a good showing in the perennially difficult division season. The Panthers' next challenge will be Tufts, whom the Panthers will host for two sets of doubleheaders at home this weekend. The rainout did cause one game to be rescheduled, and it will be played at Wesleyan on a mutually convenient date.

Pranksters bring flair to campus sports scene

By Jake Cohen
Staff Writer

Whether it is the leopard-print skirts on the men or the eccentric sequined blouses on the women, members of the Ultimate Frisbee team are renowned for their quirks, kinks and unabashed pride. This year at the karaoke contest, four members of the Ultimate Frisbee team took second place with their rendition of "Total Eclipse of the Heart," as sung in *Old School*. But the Middlebury Pranksters, so affectionately named, are more than a bold crew of friends — they are a successful athletic team. Over spring break, they won two large tournaments and sported an impressive 14-2 record. As many Pranksters would agree, the athletic success of the team is rooted in its strong sense of camaraderie and team spirit.

Ultimate Frisbee is a unique sport and takes a rare breed to fully appreciate. A teenager named Joel Silver, then a junior at Colombia High School in Maplewood, N.J., invented Ultimate Frisbee in 1968. Since then, Ultimate Frisbee has been introduced to the 2001 World Games in Japan and the Ultimate Players Association has expanded its membership to over 100,000 worldwide.

Courtesy / Jason Kowalski

Taking its unique style of play to Georgia, the Middlebury ultimate frisbee team showed that it is about more than laughs.

Middlebury, too, has found success in Ultimate Frisbee, both on and off the field. Captain Will "Hippie, Jesus, Moneybags, Erasmus" Bates '06 explains that the team "though not always the right fit for everyone, has developed a unique tradition that combines quality and passionate athletic competition with relaxed and good-natured fun." Practices are run efficiently, but eccentrically. Games are played intensely, but aren't taken *too* seriously. As a result, a gamut of students comes out to participate and eventually compose the Middlebury Pranksters.

This year looked to be a rebuilding year for the Ultimate squad. Many valuable seniors were lost to graduation leaving the team without some crucial scorers. Men's captains Bates and Elliott Turley '06 noted that the losses "made this year feel less hopeful as far as winning games goes." But they were quick to point out that they "undoubtedly always know how to enjoy plastic discs flying through the air and heckling friends from sidelines," yet another example of the unique mesh between competition and camaraderie.

Surprisingly enough, however, the team has found remarkable success. Over spring break, the Pranksters upset a number of quality teams in the College Southerns tournament. Though they did not clinch this tournament victory, they took the following competition with authority. Middlebury went undefeated in the victorious tournament and beat its number-one rival, Northwestern, 13-3 in the finals. This momentum may be the impetus needed for triumph in the

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